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AN  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE  
SKETCH

OF  
BIRMINGHAM;

WITH

SOME ACCOUNT OF ITS ENVIRONS,

AND

FORTY-FOUR VIEWS OF THE PRINCIPAL PUBLIC  
BUILDINGS,

&c. &c.

Submissive to the skilful workman's will,  
Here the rough metals brighten into fame ;  
Taking a thousand diff'rent artful forms,  
Minute or massive, simple or complex,  
Sought through the world for ornament or use.

*Jago.*

BIRMINGHAM :  
BEILBY, KNOTT, AND BEILBY.

MDCCCXXX.

ALLEGED READING

THESE ARE

THESE ARE

THESE ARE

THESE ARE

**T. KNOTT, JUN. PRINTER.**

TO  
JOHN GOUGH, ESQUIRE,  
OF PERRY HALL, IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD,  
WHOSE ANCESTORS,  
DURING A LONG RESIDENCE IN THE VICINITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM,  
PROMOTED IN SUCCESSION  
THE WELFARE OF THE TOWN;  
AND WHO HIMSELF,  
BY HIS MUNIFICENT LIBERALITY  
TO ITS PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS,  
IS ENTITLED TO THE RESPECT AND GRATITUDE  
OF THE INHABITANTS,  
THIS WORK  
IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED  
BY HIS MOST OBEDIENT SERVANTS,  
BEILBY, KNOTT, AND BEILBY.

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1830

## INTRODUCTION.

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THE great and increasing extent and population of the Town of Birmingham, its established importance as the seat of an almost infinite variety of the mechanical arts of the nation, the ingenuity and commercial spirit of the inhabitants, the rapid progress of improvement in its streets and buildings, and the splendour of its Triennial Musical Festival, are circumstances all combining to give to the place that high degree of celebrity which must necessarily awaken in the minds of Visitors a desire for accurate information as to its general history and present state. That information is intended to be supplied by the Work now submitted to the Public, which the Publishers hope will not only be found to answer every reasonable expectation

of those for whose use it is peculiarly intended, but also prove an interesting and acceptable Memorial to the Inhabitant.

The principal Public Buildings of the town, comprising *forty-four* distinct subjects, are faithfully represented in a series of neatly executed Engravings, with which this Work is embellished.

**Birmingham, 1830.**

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## A SKETCH, &c.

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### SITUATION—SUPERFICIAL CONTENTS—AND OUTLINE OF NATURAL HISTORY.

THE market town of Birmingham, famed at an early period for the manufacture of articles of iron, and distinguished in modern times by its great advancement in population, and by the successful pursuits of commercial and manufacturing industry, is situate near the centre of England, in the north-west peninsular extremity of the county of Warwick, in the hundred of Hemlingford, the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, and the deanery of Arden. Latitude  $52^{\circ} 59'$  north; longitude  $1^{\circ} 48'$  west from Greenwich.\*

The parish is bounded east by that of Aston, in the county of Warwick; west and south-west by that of Edgbaston, in the same county; north by that of Handsworth, in the county of Stafford; north-west by that of Harborne, also in the county of Stafford; and on the south slightly touching the parish of King's Norton, in the county of Worcester: being distant about 20 miles from Warwick,

\* Vide Sheriff's Map; other calculations vary a little from his.

18 from Coventry, 26 from Stafford, 26 from Worcester, and 109 from London.

It is small in size compared with most of the other parishes in the neighbourhood, a circumstance which Mr. Hutton has endeavoured to account for by observing that when Alfred parcelled out his kingdom, where he met with a town he allotted a smaller quantity of land, because the inhabitants chiefly depended upon commerce; but where there was only a village, he allotted a larger, because they depended on agriculture; which observation, he adds, goes far in proving the antiquity of the place, it being 900 years since that division was effected. The parish is somewhat of an oval form, and about seven miles in circumference, the longest diameter, nearly in the direction from east to west, being about three miles; and the widest, from north to south, more than two. The superficial contents are stated at about 2864 acres, whereof the town, occupying the south-eastern part of the parish, covers nearly one-half. In this direction Birmingham has considerably overstepped her parochial limits, numerous lines of streets being continued into the adjoining parish of Aston.

The foundation upon which the town stands is one solid mass of dry reddish sand. As no part lies flat, the showers promote both cleanliness and health by carrying off the dirt and filth into the small river Rea, which bounds the eastern side of the parish. Except from Hales Owen, on the north-

west, the approach to Birmingham on every side is by ascent, which gives a free accession of air, and allows the sun to exercise his full powers of exhalation.

Former writers have viewed Birmingham as low and watery, because Digbeth, then the chief street, bears that description. But all future writers will view her on an eminence, and with as much reason, because for one low street we have now fifty elevated.

The soil is rather light, sandy, and weak. The northern part of the parish, consisting of about 400 acres, denominated Birmingham Heath, Kaye Hill, and Gibb Heath, lay waste till 1800, when it was inclosed under the authority of an Act of Parliament. A considerable portion of the land near the town is parcelled out into small gardens, averaging about a guinea, or from that to two guineas per annum rent. These are occupied not so much for profit as for health and amusement, to both of which, as well as to the improvement of the morals of the people, they essentially contribute. There are now but few farms in the parish, and those of small size; much of the land not used for gardens being let out in small quantities, to various persons, for purposes of accommodation.

There is no natural river running through the parish, but there are three which mark its boundaries for about half its circumference. One is a little stream crossing the Bromsgrove turnpike road

near the first mile-stone; the second, Shirland Brook, on the Dudley road; and the third and principal one, the River Rea, which runs at the foot of Digbeth, and over which is a handsome bridge at the entrance of the parish from the London road. The town is abundantly supplied with good water for ordinary purposes by means of pumps inserted into wells throughout the town. That in the upper part, which is found at the depth of about 20 yards, is mostly hard; but in Digbeth, and generally along the lower side of the town, there is a never-failing supply of excellent soft water, with which the inhabitants are accommodated at a reasonable rate, by persons who make it their business to take it about in carts and cans for sale.

The natural air of the place cannot perhaps be excelled in this climate; the moderate elevation and dry soil, of course essentially contribute to its purity, but it receives an alloy from the congregated bodies of nearly 100,000 people, from the continual smoke of the immense quantity of coals consumed, and from the noxious effluvia of various trades. Nevertheless, instances of many of the inhabitants living to a very advanced age are numerous, and the general healthiness of the people probably exceeds that of any other manufacturing town of equal size; indeed, it is remarked by the most accurate observer of the probability of human existence (Dr. Price), to be one of the healthiest

towns in England. Dr. Priestley, too, pronounced the air of the place to be equally pure as any he had analysed.

Mr. Hutton has truly observed of Birmingham, that she is peculiarly favoured with the enjoyment of four of the greatest blessings that can attend human existence—water, air, the sun, and a situation free from damps.\*

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#### ORTHOGRAPHY AND ETYMOLOGY.

PROBABLY no place has undergone more changes in the orthography of its name, which, in the course of time, has been written in a great variety of ways. The following are a few selected instances, arranged without regard to chronological order:—

Byrmyncham, Brymyncham, Burmyncham, Berymyncham, Birmincham, Byrmyngham, Birmingham, Bermyngeham, Bermyngham, Burmyngham, Birmingham, Brumingham, Beringeham, Bermigham, Bermingham.

Brumwycheham, Bromwycham, Bromy<sup>gh</sup>ham, Bromicham, Bremisham, Bremicham, Bremingeham.†

Birmingham is now the fixed spelling, though in common speech, among persons careless of correct

\* Hutton's History of Birmingham.

† Taken from Dugdale, Hutton, and a variety of published and MS. documents.

pronunciation, the place is still not unfrequently called *Brumicham*, or *Brummagem*.

The *etymology* of the name is, as it probably ever must remain, merely conjectural. *Dugdale*,\* (whose opinion is presumed to be founded on the Norman Survey, wherein it is called *Bermingeham*†) supposed it to have been originally taken from some Saxon possessor, the termination *ham* denoting a home or dwelling, and the previous part of the word, in his opinion, manifesting itself to be a proper name; but the late *Mr. Hutton*‡ has contended for an earlier and different derivation, thinking the name to have been originally, and long before the Saxon era, *Bromwych*; *Brom*, perhaps from the shrub Broom, for the growth of which the soil is extremely favourable, and *wych*,§ a descent, which would correspond with the declivity from High-street to Digbeth; observing also, in support of this hypothesis, that two other places in the neighbourhood bear the same name, Castle Bromwich and West Bromwich; to which may be added a third, Little Bromwich: the termination *ham* he supposes to have been adopted, during the Saxon Heptarchy, from the Lord of the place having made

\* *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, 1656.

† *Gent. Mag.* April, 1804, p. 299.

‡ *History of Birmingham*, 1781.

§ The Saxon *Wic*, or *Wich*, signified a village, &c. so that *Brom* or *Broom* *Wich*, would answer to *Broom Village*, and the particle *ham* being added, the whole (*Bromwicham*) might signify a house or abode in *Broom Village*.

it his residence; thus rendering *Bromwycham* as its then name.

Mr. Hamper published in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1804,\* with references to various authorities, some remarks on the etymology of the name, wherein, after noticing the derivations given by Dugdale and Hutton, he observes: "These derivations, however plausible, seem to have but little weight when we consider that the Roman Station, *Bremenium*,† was on the Ikeneild Street at this place. That word evidently bears a greater resemblance to the present Birmingham, than to Mr. Hutton's hypothetical Bromwich: and the Historian of Manchester, in a note on the 10th Iter. of Richard of Cirencester,‡ says, 'The name of *Bremenium* is composed of Bre and Maen, *the high stone*, and the site of it must therefore have been on the crest of the hill at 'Birmingham.' In the Liber Niger of the Exchequer§ it is written *Bremingeham*; and in a list of no less than fifty changes which the fluctuation of orthography has caused in the name of our town, I find nothing to support Mr. Hutton's conjecture previous to the year 1336, when *Burmyncham* occurs. I must, therefore, prefer Mr. Whitaker's derivation, until Mr. Hutton, or some

\* Gent. Mag. April, 1804, p. 299.

† "Richard of Cirencester, Iter. 10."

‡ "Whitaker's Hist. of Manchester. Appendix."

§ Lib. Niger Scaccarii, vol. i. 139.

“ other of Mr. Urban’s Antiquarian friends, will  
“ oblige me by producing a proof that Bromwych,  
“ or Bromwycham, was the original name, and by  
“ accounting for the manner in which it is spelt in  
“ Richard of Cirencester, Domesday Book, and  
“ the Liber Niger.”

Such are the various opinions that have been ingeniously advanced on the etymology of Birmingham, a subject upon which no conclusive evidence is likely to be discovered.

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## ANCIENT HISTORY.

THOUGH the town has a modern appearance, exhibiting but few vestiges of antiquity, there is reason to believe that its origin may be carried back to a very early date. Mr. Hutton gives it existence in the days of the *Ancient Britons*, as having been the manufactory whence that people obtained their warlike instruments, the sword, spear, shield, and scythe; observing that ironstone and coal, the necessary materials for such productions, are both found in the neighbourhood, in great plenty; and offering the two following circumstances as strongly evincing this ancient British manufactory:—\*

“ Upon the borders of the parish stands Aston  
“ Furnace, appropriated for melting ironstone, and

\* Hutton’s History of Birmingham, 4th edition, p. 22, 23.

“ reducing it into pigs:”\* this has the appearance  
“ of great antiquity. From the melted ore in this  
“ subterranean region of infernal aspect, is pro-  
“ duced a calx, or cinder, of which there is an  
“ enormous mountain. From an attentive survey  
“ the observer would suppose so prodigious a heap  
“ could not accumulate in one hundred generations;  
“ however, it shews no perceptible addition in the  
“ age of man.

“ There is also a Common of vast extent, called  
“ Wednesbury Old Field,† in which are the ves-  
“ tiges of many hundreds of coal-pits, long in dis-  
“ use, which the curious antiquary would deem as  
“ long in sinking, as the mountain of cinders in  
“ rising.”

Mr. Hutton also instances the roads that proceed from Birmingham as indications of her great antiquity.‡ Where any of them led up an eminence, they were worn by the long practice of ages into deep holloways, some of them twelve or fourteen yards below the surface of the banks, with which they were once even, and extremely narrow. In this state most of these roads remained till within the last seventy or eighty years, during which the progress of improvement has nearly destroyed all traces of their original state. Among the most re-

\* Now disused as an iron furnace, and converted into a manufactory of paper.

† About seven miles north north-west of Birmingham.

‡ History of Birmingham, 4th edition, p. 25, 26.

markable may be mentioned one between Deritend and Camp-hill, in the way to Stratford-upon-Avon, which is said to have been nearly sixty feet deep; another at Holloway-head, formerly the way to Bromsgrove and to Bewdley; a third at Constitution hill, on the Wolverhampton road; and a fourth between Gosta-green and Aston Brook, on the road to Lichfield.

In the opinion of the same author, British traces were discoverable in the old Dudley road, down Easy-hill, under the Canal; at the eighth milestone, and at Smethwick; also in several roads near Birmingham, which were never thought to merit a repair, particularly at Good Knave's-end, towards Harborne; the Green-lane, leading to the Garrison; and that beyond Longbridge, in the road to Yardley; all of them deep holloways, carrying evident tokens of antiquity. Subsequent alterations and improvements have, however, in some instances, either destroyed or considerably lessened the traces to which he alludes.

Birmingham lay within the British Division, or District of the *Cornavii*, a people who appear to have possessed that portion of the island which now composes the counties of Warwick, Worcester, Stafford, Salop, and Chester.\*

Under the *Romans* it was probably comprised within the Division called *Flavia Cæsariensis*,

\* Gibson's *Camden*, vol. i.

though, according to some writers, part of the county was included in that of Britannia Secunda.

It has been already observed that the Roman Station *Bremenium*\* (mentioned in the Itinerary of Richard of Cirencester,† Iter. 10) was at this place, and that the site was supposed to have been on the crest of the hill, which would agree with the course of the Ikeneild Street through the parish, on the north-west or upper side of the town. This street, one of the four famous military roads formed by the Romans‡ for the completion of their conquest of Britain, commenced near Southampton, extending from sea to sea in a direction from south to north across the island, and terminating upon the banks of the Tine, near Tinemouth, in Northumberland. It entered the parish of Birmingham near the Observatory, in Lady Wood-lane, crossed the Dudley road at the Sandpits,§ continued along Worstone-lane, through the Little Pool and Hockley Brook,

\* The Bremenium of Antoninus was near the Wall in Northumberland.

† A Monk of Westminster, in the fourteenth century, who is supposed to have prepared his work from the remains of Records drawn up by the authority of a Roman General, between the years 138 and 170, about the reign of Antoninus Pius. This Itinerary was unknown to Dugdale, having lain in concealment till 1747, when it was discovered at Copenhagen by Mr. Bertram, an English gentleman.—Vide Whitaker's Manchester, vol. i.

‡ By some this Road is thought to have been originally made by the Britons, and its name would seem to be derived from the Iceni, the ancient British inhabitants of the Eastern Counties of England.—Vide Smith's Warwickshire delineated.

§ Near this spot stands Ikeneild House, late the residence of James Woolley, Esq. but now of Timothy Smith, Esq.

where it left the parish, and proceeded from thence (crossing the river Tame at Oldford) to Sutton Coldfield and Sutton Park, and so onwards to its termination. The distance which this road passed through the parish of Birmingham was about a mile in length, but its course here is now wholly invisible. On Sutton Coldfield, and in Sutton Park, four or five miles distant, a considerable portion of it, two or three miles in length, may yet be seen in a state of the greatest perfection.\*

The Romans formed or improved several smaller roads throughout the kingdom for common use, one of which, issuing from London, penetrates through Stratford-on-Avon (Street-ford), Monks-path-street, and Shirley-street, to Birmingham,† affording another indication of the antiquity of the place.

No vestiges of the station here remain. Mr. Hutton examined the country with care, but could find none. All traces of the *precise* site of it are equally lost, but Kaye-hill, or its immediate vicinity, near to Worstone-lane, is perhaps the most likely spot.

In a concise History of Birmingham published a few years since,‡ it is stated to be obvious that the Romans had a station here from coins and other antiquities having been dug up; and, in the same work, it is added, that “ in June, 1816, as a man

\* Hutton's Hist. of Birmingham.

† Whitaker's Hist. of Manchester, vol. i.

‡ Printed and published by Jabet and Moore, Birmingham.

“ was digging in his garden, near the Jews’ Burying Ground”\* (situate near the basin of the Worcester Canal), “ he threw out a quantity of coins, “ many of them in excellent preservation; one was “ of Vespasian, and had the following inscription “ round the head:—IMP. CAESAR VESP. AVG. COS. “ VII.—on the reverse, a figure in a long robe, “ with a star upon the head, and the letters S. C. “ one on each side.”

It is to be regretted that a more circumstantial account of this discovery was not published, with some clue for tracing the possession of the articles discovered.

Of Birmingham in the time of the Saxons, when it formed part of the kingdom of Mercia, but little can be said—Dugdale states that “ this being a “ place very eminent for most commodities made “ of iron, was, in Edward the Confessor’s days, “ the Freehold of one *Vluuine*” (modern *Allen*).† It is likewise recorded by the same author, that in 2d Edw. II. (1309) Willm. de Birmingham, then Lord of the Manor, on the trial of a suit between him and the inhabitants of Bromsgrove and King’s Norton, touching the liability of such inhabitants to market toll in Birmingham, which they had refused to pay, and for which his bailiffs had distrained, after producing the charters of divers kings, &c. for justification of his market, further

\* About a mile from the supposed site of the Station.

† Dugdale’s Warwickshire.

alleged that his *ancestors* had a market here *before* the Norman Conquest;\* and Mr. Hutton informs us that he had met with an old author who observes that Birmingham was governed by two Constables in the time of the Saxons.†

After the Norman Invasion, *William Fitz Aesculf*‡ (whose seat was the Castle of Dudley, about nine miles distant) possessed Birmingham, and divers other towns hereabout.§

By the Conqueror's Survey (Domesday Book) Birmingham is rated for four hides, having woods of half a mile in length, and four furlongs in breadth; all being then held of the same *William* by one *Richard*, and valued at twenty shillings.|| Of the woods alluded to, no traces now remain; but the site of them was probably on the western side of the parish, at, or in the vicinity of a place

\* Dugdale's Warwickshire.—The men of Bromsgrove and Norton had judgment in their favour, on the plea that as the Lordships in which they inhabited were of the ancient Demesne of the Crown, the inhabitants thereof ought to be freed from the payment of toll throughout the realm, for all petty commodities, as victual and the like, except it could appear that they did buy and sell as common merchants.

† Hutton's Birmingham, 4th edition, p. 40.

‡ According to a document referred to in Dr. Booker's History of Dudley Castle, this name should be written *Ansculph*.

§ || Dugdale's Warwickshire.—A Hide of Land is variously estimated; some rate it as equal to 100 acres—others more—others less; but it does not seem to have comprised any certain quantity. It is said by some to have included as much land as one plough could till in a year.

The then measure in miles and furlongs would not precisely correspond with the measure of the present day, as the mile was not reduced to its present standard till the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

still called *Lady-wood* (formerly St. Mary's Wood, being so designated in the Free School Charter).

*William Fitz Ausculf* was immediately succeeded in the enjoyment of Dudley Castle, and the substance of all his other lands, by the *Paganells*; from whom Birmingham, with other fair possessions, about the time of Henry I. came into that family which probably took its sirname from this place, and of which the above-named *Richard* is thought to have been the paternal ancestor: and it appears that *Peter de Birmingham*,\* Sewer to Gervase Paganell, held the place of the said Gervase by military service, in the 12th of Henry II. (1166). This *Peter* had a castle or mansion here, near the Church, on the south side (now Smithfield market); and by a grant of that King, as also of the same *Gervase*, a *weekly market* upon the Thursday, to him and his heirs; which market King Richard I. afterwards confirmed to *William de Birmingham*, son and successor of the said *Peter*.†

In 35th Henry III. (1251), *William de Birmingham*, son and successor of the last-mentioned *William*, had a charter for a fair to be annually held here, by the space of four days, beginning on the eve of the Ascension (commonly called Holy Thursday); and in the same year another fair was granted

\* The office of *Sewer* was anciently one of honour, and held by persons of rank. Its duties were to serve up the feasts of the Lord in whose service the officer was engaged.

† *Dugdale's Warwickshire*.

to be yearly kept here for three days, viz. on the eve of St. John the Baptist, and the two days next following.\*

This *William de Birmingham* sided with his father-in-law, *Thomas de Astley*, and the other Barons, in the grand rebellion against Henry III. and was slain at the Battle of Evesham, in the 49th of that king's reign (1265); whereupon his lands being confiscated, the inheritance of this his Manor of *Birmingham*, rated at forty pounds, was given by the king, with other forfeited lordships, unto *Roger de Clifford*, for his faithful service; but as, by the *Dictum de Kenilworth*, the greatest part of all men's lands so confiscate might be compounded for, this, with the rest, upon satisfaction made according to the tenor of that decree, was re-possessed by *William de Birmingham*, son and heir to the rebel; which last-mentioned *William*, 11th Edw. I. (1283), obtained a charter of *Free Warren* throughout all his demesne lands here and in other places.†

In 12th Edward II. (1319), the inhabitants obtained a licence to take toll of all vendible commodities brought here to be sold, for the space of three years, viz. for every quarter of corn a farthing, &c. towards paving the town: but this work was not perfectly completed within that time, nor of fifteen years after; for in 7th Edward III. (1333) they

\* *Dugdale's Warwickshire.*

† *Ibid.*

obtained another license to take toll in like manner for the space of three years more.\*

The manor continued in the Birmingham family till the reign of Henry VIII. when it was wrested from *Edward Birmingham*, the then rightful possessor, by an artifice, which, for heartless, cold-blooded villainy, has perhaps no parallel in the annals of crime.

The infamous transaction is thus related by Dugdale:—

“ This *Edward* hapned to be the last of the  
“ family that had to do here; for being contempo-  
“ rary with that ambitious man *John Dudley*, af-  
“ terwards *Viscount L'Isle* (more commonly known  
“ by those greater titles which he sometimes had,  
“ viz. *Earl of Warwick* and *Duke of Northumber-  
“ land*), he was strangely wrested out of this  
“ lordship; for the said *John*, having possest him-  
“ self of *Dudley* castle, and observing *Berming-  
“ ham* a fit ornament for so noble a seat, but being  
“ the principall residence of such a family, as had  
“ for some hundreds of years enjoy'd it, not likely

\* Dugdale.

The late celebrated Antiquary Richard Gough, Esq. had in his possession a curious Map of England, on vellum, supposed to be of the age of Edward the Third, of which a fac-simile is engraved in Brit. Top. vol. 1, p. 76. Birmingham, in its present spelling, is shewn, and is the only place in Warwickshire mentioned by name upon the map. Coventry is also shewn, and some few other towns and villages in the county, but not named. Hence it would seem that, in those days, Birmingham had attained some degree of importance, or she would not have been considered worthy of especial notice on this map.

“ to be purchased from the then rightfull owner,  
“ conspired by a wicked stratagem, to work him  
“ out of it, which he soon put in practise: The  
“ story whereof is in substance thus, as by tradi-  
“ tion from divers discreet persons I have heard,  
“ viz. that *Dudley* did set on some of his agents  
“ to lodge in *Bermingham*, and to learn when  
“ Master *Bermingham* was to ride out from home;  
“ which being accordingly done, they so contrived  
“ their business, that one of their plot should ride  
“ leisurely before, so that they might soon, keep-  
“ ing but an ordinary pace, overtake him; where-  
“ upon they watcht an opportunity to strike into  
“ Master *Bermingham's* company, as travailers,  
“ with whom they soberly rode for a while; but  
“ being come up to their confederate, forthwith set  
“ upon him for his purse, so that the villain, thus  
“ seemingly rob'd, makes pursuit after them, and  
“ likewise after Master *Bermingham*, as one of the  
“ pack; who being thereupon apprehended and  
“ prosecuted, apparently saw his danger. The  
“ business therefore now working according to  
“ *Dudley's* first design, there were others employed  
“ to Mr. *Bermingham* with overture how he might  
“ save his life; viz. to make the *Vicount L'Isle* his  
“ friend in giving up this Lordship of *Bermingham*  
“ to him; which, that it might bear the better co-  
“ lour, and be the more valid, was performed by  
“ yielding it to the king, and ratified by a speciall

“ act of parliament, the tenor whereof was as fol-  
“ loweth: (28 Hen. VIII. 1537)

‘ Where *Edward Byrmingham*, late of *Byr-*  
‘ *mingham*, in the countie of *Warwick*, Esquire,  
‘ otherwise callid *Edward Byrmingham*, Esquire,  
‘ ys and standyth lawfully indettid to our Sovereing  
‘ Lord the Kynge in diverse grete summes of  
‘ money; and also standyth at the mercy of his  
‘ Highness, for that the same *Edward* ys at this  
‘ present convicted of felony; our seide Sovereign  
‘ Lord the Kyng, ys contentid and pleased, that  
‘ for and in recompence and satisfaction to his  
‘ grace of the seyde summes of money, to accept  
‘ and take of the seyde *Edward*, the Mannour and  
‘ Lordship of *Byrmingham*, otherwise called *Byr-*  
‘ *mincham*, with the appurtenances, lying and  
‘ being in the countie of *Warwick*, and all and sin-  
‘ gular other lands and tenements, reversions,  
‘ rents, services, and hereditaments of the same  
‘ *Edward Byrmingham*, set lying and beyng in  
‘ the countie of *Warwick* afforeseyde. Be yt there-  
‘ fore ordeyned and enacted, by the authoritie of  
‘ this present Parliament, that our saide Sovereine  
‘ Lord the Kynge, shall have hold and enjoy to  
‘ him his heirs and assignes, for ever, the seide  
‘ Mannour and Lordship of *Byrmingham*, (&c.)—  
‘ In which Act there is a reservation of £40 per  
‘ an. to the said *Edward*, and *Elizabeth* his wife,  
‘ during their lives.’ ”\*

\* Dugdale's Warwickshire.

From this Act it would appear that *Birmingham* was actually convicted of the felony alleged against him; and his imprisonment in the Tower of London is manifested by a paper containing an account of the Charges of certain Prisoners in the Tower, temp. Hen. 8, published in *Archæologia*, vol. 18, p. 294.

Thus (to use the language of Mr. Hutton) “ innocence is depressed for want of support; property is wrested for want of the protection of the law; and a vile Minister, in a corrupt age, can carry an infamous point through a Court of Justice, the two Houses of Parliament, and compleat his horrid design by the sanction of a Tyrant.”\*

The place where tradition tells us the diabolical transaction happened, is the middle of Sandy Lane, in the Sutton road, the upper part of which begins at the north-east corner of Aston Park wall, about two miles from the Manor House in Birmingham, the place of Edward’s abode.†

Northumberland, though perhaps covertly exercising every act of ownership, yet, with the view, as it would seem, to escape in some degree the censure of the world for his hard dealing, suffered nine years to elapse before he ventured to take a formal grant from the Crown of the Birmingham Estate, for such grant bears not date till December 21st, 37 Hen. VIII. (1546), a short time before

\* + Hutton’s Birmingham.

that King's decease, when the Manor of Birmingham, and Patronage of the Rectory, late belonging unto the said Edward Birmingham, were, with other lands, passed unto Northumberland, who enjoyed not these possessions many more years, for having embarked in political intrigues, for the purpose of fixing the crown in his own family, he was attainted and beheaded 1 Mary (1553), whereupon the Manor and Estates of Birmingham again reverted to the Crown; and the same Queen, in 3d and 4th of her reign, granted the inheritance thereof to *Thomas Marow*, Esq. whose posterity (seated at *Berkswell*, in this county) continued Lords of it nearly 200 years.\*

The reign of Henry VIII. introduces us to that celebrated Antiquary and Tourist, *Leland*, whose Itinerary, begun about 1538, 30th of that reign, gives the following description of Birmingham, in the quaint phraseology of his time.†

“ I came through a pretty street or ever I entred  
“ into *Bermingham* towne. This street, as I re-  
“ member, is called *Dirtey*.‡ In it dwell smithes  
“ and cutlers, and there is a brooke that divideth

\* Dugdale's Warwickshire, and Hutton's Birmingham.

† This quotation is correctly given from Hearne's 2d edition of Leland, printed at Oxford, 1744, vol. 4, p. 108-9, fol. 186, b. of the original. Leland is *incorrectly* quoted in Mr. Hutton's History of Birmingham, and in other published accounts of the place.

‡ “ Dirty or Deriten.”

“ this street from *Bermigham*,<sup>1</sup> and is an hamlett  
“ or member belonginge to the parish therebye.

“ There is at the end of *Dirtey* a propper chap-  
“ pell and mansion house of tymber, hard on the  
“ ripe as the brooke runneth downe, and as I went  
“ through the ford by the bridge, the water ranne  
“ downe on the right hand, and a fewe miles  
“ lower goeth into *Tame ripa dextra*.

“ This brooke above *Dirtey* breaketh in 2 armes  
“ that a litle beneath the bridge close againe.  
“ This brooke riseth, as some say, 4 or 5 miles  
“ above *Bermigham* towards *Black<sup>2</sup> Hilles*.

“ The beauty of *Bermigham*, a good markett  
“ towne in the extreame partes of *Warwike-shire*,  
“ is one street going up alonge almost from the  
“ left ripe of the brooke up a meane hill by the  
“ length of a quarter of a mile. I saw but one  
“ paroch church in the towne. There be many  
“ smithes in the towne that use to make knives and  
“ all mannour of cuttinge tooles, and many lori-  
“ ners that make bittes, and a great many naylors.  
“ Soe that a great part of the towne is maintained

*The following Annotations (1, 2, 3) are appended to the above account:—*

<sup>1</sup> “ *Bremisham, Dyrtey* is but an hamlet or membre  
“ longynge to - - - \* paroche therby and is clene se-  
“ perated from *Bremischam* paroch.—St.”

<sup>2</sup> “ *Hilles* in *Worcestershire*. St.”

“ by smithes whoe have theire iron<sup>3</sup> and sea-cole  
“ out of *Stafford-shire*.”

In the reign of Elizabeth, Camden, who had visited Birmingham in the course of his tours, published his *Britannia*. In this work he mentions “ *Bremicham*, swarming with inhabitants and “ echoing with the noise of anvils (for here are “ great numbers of smiths\*). The lower part of the “ town is very watery. The upper part rises with “ abundance of handsome buildings; and it is none “ of the least honours of the place, that from hence “ the noble and warlike family of the *Bremichams* “ in Ireland, had both their original and name.†”‡

In 1588, on Elizabeth's requisition for extraordinary aid, by way of loan, for defence of the country against the *Spanish Invasion*, the following sums were raised in Birmingham, viz.

“ William Kinge.....	£25
“ William Collmer.....	25
“ John Warde.....	25.”§

<sup>3</sup> “ Yren out of Staffordshire and Warwikeshire and  
“ see coale out of Staffordshire. St.”

*Gibson makes the following additions to this account :—*

\* [And of other artificers in iron and steel, whose performances in that way are greatly admired both at home and abroad].

† [And that it gives the title of Baron to *Edward Lord Dudley* and *Ward*; of which family, *Humble Ward* was created by King Charles the First, *Lord Ward of Birmingham*.]

‡ Bp. Gibson's Translation of Camden, vol. 1.

§ “ The Names of the Nobility, Gentry, and others, who  
“ contributed to the defence of this Country at the time of the

The town, it should be remembered, was then comparatively small, both in extent and population; and the whole county produced on the above occasion but forty contributors.

In 1636, when Charles the First imposed upon his subjects the tax of ship money, Birmingham paid towards that tax £100, Coventry £266, Warwick £100, Sutton Coldfield £80, and Stratford £50.\*

During the vast succession of ages from the Norman Conquest to the time of the Civil War in the reign of Charles the First, the inhabitants of Birmingham appear to have steadily applied themselves to the labours of the hammer and the anvil; seldom interfering or taking any part in national affairs, or in those great political questions which agitated most other towns. Some interest was excited among the inhabitants in the reign of Henry III. when William de Birmingham led a small number of the tenants of his lordship to the battle of Evesham, where they fought unsuccessfully on the side of the Barons; but in the war between the Roses they were silent spectators.†

Not so were they in the rebellion against Charles the First, but, on the contrary, became warm partizans on the side of the Parliament; and, besides

“ Spanish Invasion in 1588,” &c. printed [from a contemporary MS.] for Leigh and Sotheby, London, 1798. Also Hutton’s Hist. of Birmingham.

\* Hutton’s Hist. of Birmingham.

† Warwickshire—published at Coventry, 1817.

other acts of hostility, stoutly opposed the entrance into the town of the King's troops under Prince Rupert, on their march towards Lichfield and the north, in April, 1643.

Clarendon, in his History of that Rebellion, strongly reproaches our ancestors for their disloyalty on the occasion; and details the occurrences here at some length, and with considerable minuteness; we shall therefore extract from that work such passages as relate to the subject.

In October, 1642, the King marched from Shrewsbury towards London; and, in his progress, passed through Birmingham immediately before the Battle of Edge-Hill, which took place on the 23d of that month.

Thus Clarendon—"there was not the least violence or disorder among the common soldiers, in their march, which scaped exemplary punishment; so that at *Bromicham*, a town so generally wicked, that it had risen upon small parties of the King's, and kill'd or taken them prisoners, and sent them to *Coventry*,\* declaring a more peremptory malice to his Majesty than any other place, two soldiers were executed for having taken some small trifle of no value out of a house, whose owner was at that time in the rebels army. So strict was the discipline," &c.

\* Hence, says Mr. Hutton, the proverbial expression respecting a refractory person, *Send him to Coventry*.—Hist. of Birmingham.

Again—after noticing that in the beginning of April, 1643, Prince Rupert, with 1200 horse and dragoons, and 6 or 700 foot, marched towards Lichfield, on his way into the north. “ In his way “ thither, he was to march through *Bromicham*, a “ town in Warwickshire before mention’d, and of “ as great fame for hearty, wilful, affected, dis- “ loyalty to the king, as any place in England. “ It is before remember’d, that the King in his “ march from Shrewsbury, notwithstanding the “ eminent malignity of that people, had shew’d as “ eminent compassion to them; not giving way “ that they should suffer by the undistinguishing “ license of the soldier, or by the severity of his “ own justice; which clemency of his, found so “ unequal a return, that, the next day after his re- “ move thence, the inhabitants of that place seised “ on his carriages, wherein were his own plate and “ furniture; and conveyed them to Warwick “ castle; and had from that time, with unusual “ industry and vigilance, apprehended all messen- “ gers who were employed, or suspected to be so, “ in the king’s service; and though it was never “ made a garrison by direction of the Parliament, “ being built in such a form as was indeed hardly “ capable of being fortified, yet they had so great “ a desire to distinguish themselves from the king’s “ good subjects, that they cast up little slight “ works at both ends of the town, and barricadoed “ the rest, and voluntarily engaged themselves not “ to admit any intercourse with the king’s forces.

“ In this posture Prince Rupert now found them, “ having in the town with them at that time a troop “ of horse, belonging to the garrison of Lichfield, “ which was grown to that strength, that it in- “ fested those parts exceedingly ; and would in a “ short time have extended itself to a powerful “ jurisdiction. His Highness hardly believing it “ possible, that when they should discover his “ power, they would offer to make resistance, and “ being unwilling to receive interruption in his “ more important design, sent his Quarter-masters “ thither to take up his lodging ; and to assure “ them ‘ that if they behaved themselves peace- “ ably, they should not suffer for what was past :’ “ But they had not confidence good enough to be- “ lieve him, and absolutely refused to let him “ quarter in the town ; and from their little works, “ with mettle equal to their malice, they dis- “ charged their shot upon him ; but they were “ quickly overpower’d and some parts of the town “ being fired, they were not able to contend with “ both enemies ; and distracted between both, suf- “ fered the assailant to enter without much loss ; “ who took not that vengeance upon them they de- “ serv’d, but made them expiate their transgres- “ sions with paying a less mulct than might have “ been expected from their wealth, if their wicked- “ ness had been less.

“ In the entrance of this town, and in the too “ eager pursuit of that loose troop of horse that

“ was in it, the Earl of Denbigh (who from the  
“ beginning of the war, with unwearied pains and  
“ exact submission to discipline and order, had  
“ been a voluntier in Prince Rupert’s troop, and  
“ been engaged with singular courage in all enter-  
“ prizes of danger) was unfortunately wounded  
“ with many hurts on the head and body, with  
“ swords, and poll axes; of which, within two or  
“ three days, he dyed. Had it not been for this  
“ ill accident (and to remember the dismal inequa-  
“ lity of this contention, in which always some  
“ Earl, or person of great honour or fortune fell,  
“ when after the most signal victory over the other  
“ side, there was seldom lost a man of any known  
“ family, or of other reputation, than of passion  
“ for the cause in which he fell) I should not have  
“ mention’d an action of so little moment, as was  
“ this of *Bromicham*; which I shall enlarge with  
“ the remembrance of a Clergyman, who was here  
“ kill’d at the entering of the town, after he had  
“ not only refused quarter, but provoked the sol-  
“ deir by the most odious revilings, and reproaches  
“ of the person and honour of the king, that can  
“ be imagin’d, and renouncing all allegiance to  
“ him; in whose pockets were found several pa-  
“ pers of memorials of his own obscene and scur-  
“ rilous behaviour with several women, in such  
“ loose expressions as modest ears cannot endure.  
“ This man was the principal governour and incen-  
“ diary of the rude people of that place against

“ their sovereign. So full a qualification was a heightend measure of malice and disloyalty for this service, that it weighed down the infamy of any other leud and vicious behaviour.”\*

The place called Camp-hill, at the top of Deritend, was the leading scene of Prince Rupert's attack, which took place on Easter Monday, April 3, 1643, and of which the most authentic local particulars yet published are to be found in three Tracts relative to the Battle of Birmingham, written immediately after the event, originally printed in the same year, and reprinted for the publishers of the present work in 1815. The first of these Tracts is entitled “ A True Relation of Prince Rvpert's barbarous Cruelty againt the Towne of Birmingham,” and comprises two letters, one dated Coventry, April 8, 1643, signed with the initials R. P.,† and the other without date, bearing the initials R. G. Both writers, evidently Roundheads,‡ appear to have been townsmen of Birmingham, and eye-witnesses of the affair; and the first, judging from his letter, acted in a military capacity. The first letter commences with a slight censure of Coventry for not sending help, and states

\* Clarendon's Hist. of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in England begun in the year 1641, p. 233, Oxford edition, A. D. 1707.

† Probably “ Master Perkes,” who, according to the second letter, had a troop of horse in the town, commanded by Captain Greaves.

‡ The Puritans were called Roundheads, from the circumstance of cutting their hair close.

that the town had not much hope of making a successful defence, its strength, as there stated, not being above 150 musketeers, with a troop of horse, of Captain Greaves; while that of the Cavaliers was estimated at near 1500; but that resistance was determined upon in compliance with the general desire of the inhabitants, especially of those who bore arms, and to escape the reproach of cowardice; that 80 houses, with their contents, were burnt, and 15 men and 2 women, mostly poor malignants, lost their lives, the loss on the part of the Prince being considered as more than equal; that, besides the Earl of Denbigh, the Cavaliers are said to have lost Lord Digby (who is spoken of with certainty as having been wounded), and another man of quality; that Captain Greaves' troop was sharply pursued by Denbigh some two miles out of town, till the Captain, observing his time betwixt two woods,\* faced about, and charged the pursuers, and drove them back, inflicting on Denbigh his mortal wound,† and so the Captain's troop escaped with safety, the Captain himself only being wounded, but not mortally; “ in the pursuit of “ that troope” (the writer says) “ God made a way

\* Mr. Hutton states, but without shewing on what authority, that the vanquished took the way to Oldbury, and that the Earl was killed in Shireland-lane, in the manor of Smethwick.

† The Earl was buried at Monk's-Kirby, in Leicestershire. Of this Nobleman (*William Fielding, Earl of Denbigh*) there is a Portrait, by Vandyke, in the Collection of his Grace the Duke of Hamilton, of which a fine engraving, by Dean, is published in that excellent work “ Lodge's Portraits of Illustrious Personages.”

“ for all our souldiers, saving some two or three,  
“ to escape, most with their armes, which they  
“ threw away and hid in pits and ditches as they  
“ could, whereof the most, I thinke the Cavaleeres  
“ found not, and not one captaine or officer was  
“ hurt or taken prisoner, nor any considerable  
“ man, but most poore fellowes, and malignants,  
“ because they could meet with no better, and all  
“ are released saving two of the best, though of  
“ no great quality; some redeemed themselves for  
“ 2d. 12d. and 8d. a piece, and some one or two  
“ for 20s.” The writer further observes, “ in the  
“ enterance for pillage they spared none, friend or  
“ foe they lighted of, yet for the most part those  
“ that did most against them escaped best, the  
“ same I may say of the fire, though they intended  
“ to burne the towne utterly, as may be known by  
“ their laying lighted match, with powder, and  
“ other combustible matter, at the other end, which  
“ fired in divers places, and divers was found out  
“ and prevented, so that we may truely say, that  
“ the flames, sword, pilledgers, but especially the  
“ prison, made a difference betwixt those that  
“ feared God, and those that feare him not. But  
“ this is remarkable in their vilenesse, that all these  
“ houses saving two were fired in cold blood, at  
“ their departure, wherein they endeavoured to fire  
“ all, and in the flames they would not suffer the  
“ people to carry out their goods, or to quench it,  
“ triumphingly with reproaches rejoiced that the

“ wind stood right to consume the towne, at which  
“ present the Lord caused the winds to turn, which  
“ was a token of his notice of their insultation.”—  
The second letter, which professes to “ make re-  
“ lation of a most barbarous massacree of our  
“ townesmen of *Bermingham*, and of the enraged  
“ cruelty of *Prince Rupert* and his inhumane ca-  
“ valiers,” proceeds thus, “ about three of the  
“ clocke one Munday in the afternoone, he had  
“ with neere two thousand horse and foote, four  
“ drakes and two sakers,\* set against the towne,  
“ playing with his ordnance, and endeavouring to  
“ force his way, with foote and horse, were twice  
“ beaten off with our musqueteers at the entrance  
“ of *Derrington*, at which many of their men fell,  
“ the townesmen held them in play above an houre,  
“ we had not above one hundred and fourtie mus-  
“ quets and having many entrances into the towne  
“ they were many too few, *Coventry* men had  
“ withdrawne their forces three daies before, all  
“ but *Captaine Castledowne*’s dragooneers, a troope  
“ of horse of *Master Perkes*† commanded by *Cap-*  
“ *taine Greaves* being in the towne, not fit for that  
“ service, made escape when the adversaries began  
“ to incomasse the towne, and force the waies  
“ over the medowes, and fired the towne in two  
“ places, and so by encompassing them that did  
“ defend the out-worke, caused them to draw in-

\* A description of ordnance.

† Probably the writer of the first letter.

“ ward, to other workes there in Digboth, which  
“ worke they defended to the adversaries losse, but  
“ being the enemy brake in at the Millone they  
“ were forced to leave that worke also, and so put  
“ to shift for themselves, with breaking through  
“ houses, over garden waies, escaped over hedges  
“ and boggy medowes, and hiding their armes,  
“ saved most of them, the enemy killed none as I  
“ here in fight, unlesse some three or foure, Mr.  
“ Carter and *Samuell Elsmore* being of them, some  
“ with their armes defended themselves stoutly till  
“ death, they persued the rest in fields and lanes,  
“ cutting and most barbarously mangling naked  
“ men to the number of fifteene men, one woman,  
“ another being shot, and many hurt, many men  
“ sore wounded, and Mr. *Tillam* the surgeon stand-  
“ ing in his dore to entertaine them, was most  
“ cruelly shot, having his leg and thigh bones  
“ broken, they pillaged the towne generally, their  
“ owne friends sped worst, and one Tuesday morn-  
“ ing set fire in diverse places of the towne, and  
“ have burnt neere a hundred dwellings the Welch  
“ end, Dale-end, and More-street end, *Humphrey*  
“ *Rans*, the Bell, and diverse houses thereabout,  
“ many other fires they kindled, but they did not  
“ burne, they left kindled matches with gunpowder  
“ also in other places, intending nothing lesse than  
“ utterly to destroy the towne, but by God’s provi-  
“ dence they whose hurt they chiefly intended by  
“ Gods hand is much prevented.” Further, “the

“ Cavaliers have lost thirty men at least, of which  
“ there be three or foure chiefe men, Earles and  
“ Lords, I beleeve you have heard them named the  
“ *Earle of Denby*, the *Lord John Stewart*, some  
“ say the *Lord Digby*, thirty are said to be buried and  
“ many carried away wounded, this did so much  
“ enrage them, that they appeared more like devills  
“ than men, lamenting more their losse, than boast-  
“ ing of their gaine, which was much in goods and  
“ in money, its thought above two thousand pound,  
“ thirteene hundred being taken from Mr. *Peake*,  
“ Mr. *Jennens* lost much, the which men if they  
“ had parted with little before, our fortification had  
“ been such as they could not have entred, which  
“ went on well for the time.” Of the houses which  
escaped destruction, the writer mentions those of  
Mr. *Roberts* and Mr. *Porter*, as well as his own.

The second tract is entitled “ A Letter written  
“ from Walshall, by a worthy Gentleman to his  
“ Friend in Oxford, concerning Birmingham.” It  
is dated April 5, 1643, and without any signature:  
but was written by a Cavalier, as is shewn in the  
first sentence of the letter.

The burthen of this communication is, the miserable destruction of “ Birmingham” by fire, and the chief object of the writer to exculpate the Prince from the charge of having caused the conflagration. The offences of the inhabitants, which had drawn down upon them the Royal vengeance, are stated. They had first stirred up Coventry to re-

sist the King, and sent to that city about 300 men to defend it against the king's forces ; had sent 15,000 swords for the parliament army, and not only refused to supply the king's forces with swords for their money, but imprisoned divers who bought swords, upon suspicion that they intended to supply the king's forces with them ; that, notwithstanding when his Majesty marched that way with his army, he gave express orders that the inhabitants should not be plundered, and because some were plundered (though but few, and very little taken from them), there was exemplary justice done by the hanging of two officers, and they had a special protection granted to them, yet (so little did they value the king's clemency) no sooner was the king's army removed from thence, but they stayed all the carriages which did not move the same day with that army, amongst which was some of the king's plate and divers goods of great value, and carried them to Warwick castle, before the king was out of that shire ; and that they had continued, on all occasions, violently to oppose the king, and to aid those who had taken arms against him, insomuch that they made fortifications about the town, and sent out parties to plunder the king's friends. The writer thus proceeds—

“ When his Highnesse upon Munday last sent  
“ one to them to take up his quarter at *Burming-*  
“ *ham*, who assured them that if they would quietly  
“ receive his Highnesse and his forces they should

“ suffer no injury, but otherwise they must expect  
“ to be forced to it, they refused to give him en-  
“ trance, and prepared themselves with all their  
“ strength to resist him; and when his forces drew  
“ neare they set up their colours, and sallyed out  
“ of their workes, and gave fire upon them, and  
“ with opprobrius speeches reviled them, calling  
“ them *cursed dogges, develish cavaliers, popish*  
“ *traytors*, and this was done not by a few of them  
“ but by almost all of them with great shouts and  
“ clamours. This could not but incense the soul-  
“ diers, and the Prince to make his passāge into  
“ the towne was forced to give orders for firing a  
“ house or two; but they retiring and flying, upon  
“ his entrance into the towne he immediately gave  
“ order for quenching of the fire which was done  
“ accordingly, and no more hurt was done on Mun-  
“ day. But yesterday his Highnesse being to  
“ march from thence, and fearing what those great  
“ provocations might worke with the souldiers, he  
“ gave expresse command that no souldier should  
“ attempt to fire the towne. And after his depar-  
“ ture thence some souldiers (as yet unknown)  
“ having fired the towne in diverse places, he im-  
“ mediately sent to the inhabitants of the towne, to  
“ let them know it was not done by his command,  
“ and therefore wished them to quench it, but the  
“ wind being high and the fire encreased, it could  
“ not be so soone extinguished as was to be de-  
“ sired.” Some remarks are then made respecting

the crazy minister who was killed presently after the entry of the soldiers into the town, and the writer thus concludes his letter—“ Sir, this I thought fit “ to write to you, while the memory of the busi-“ nesse is fresh; and though it may be accompa-“ nied with these circumstances, yet it much “ troubles his Highnesse that this accident should “ now fall out, he well knowing that they who are “ the great *boute fieurs* and incendiaries in the State, “ will be apt to calumniate him for the firing of “ this towne, which he never commanded or coun-“ tenanced, and the actors of which he is most de-“ sirous to punish, and is most carefull to find out. “ And this narrative now made you may be confi-“ dent is true.”

The third tract has the character of an official statement by the suffering party, and is more comprehensive and interesting than either of the others. It was published at the request of the committee at Coventry, and is intitled “ Prince Rvpert's burn-“ ing love to England, discovered in Birmingham's “ flames, or, a more exact and true narration of “ Birmingham's Calamities, under the barbarous “ and inhumane Cruelties of P. Rupert's forces. “ Wherein is related how that famous and well “ affected town of Birmingham was unworthily op-“ posed, insolently invaded, notoriously robbed “ and plundered, and most cruelly fired in cold “ blood the next day, by Prince Rupert's forces. “ Together with the number of Prince Rupert's

“ forces, his considerable persons slaine, or mor-  
“ tally wounded ; their many abominable carriages  
“ in and after the taking of the town. The small  
“ strength which Birmingham had to maintaine  
“ their defence, the names of their men slaine ; the  
“ number of houses burned, and persons thereby  
“ destitute of habitation ; with divers other consi-  
“ derable passages.”—This tract commences by  
stating that to correct the many false reports then  
spread abroad, and to prevent all false narrations  
for the future, concerning the late surprisal and  
spoiling of the town of Birmingham, the ensuing  
relation of passages had been collected from the  
information of divers trusty and intelligent inhabi-  
tants of Birmingham, who were eye witnesses of,  
and sufferers under, many of the said calamities of  
that town, so far as the truth could then be dis-  
covered. It then proceeds with the narration, from  
which we make copious extracts. “ The towne of  
“ *Birmingham* perceiving that for their faithfull  
“ affection to King and Parliament, they had de-  
“ rived the hatred of Popish and prophane malig-  
“ nants upon themselves ; and that since the noble  
“ Lord *Brooke's* death, these parts of the country  
“ began to be much infested with divers troopes of  
“ robbers and plunderers, whereby their persons  
“ and estates were much indangered, resolved to  
“ arme themselves and estates, and to maintaine  
“ two captaines for the better disciplining and or-  
“ dering of their men to that end : But whilst they

“ were beginning to make some slight mounds and  
“ breast-works for defence the week before Easter  
“ last, information came that Prince *Rupert* with  
“ 1500 or 2000 men with 4 drakes and 2 sacres  
“ was upon his march at *Stratford upon Avon* and  
“ about Henly some 10 miles distant from *Bir-*  
“ *mingham*, where these forces hovered about 4  
“ dayes, pillageing the country extreamly (as their  
“ manner is). *Birmingham* hoped they might  
“ passe by them, but afterwards perceiving on Sa-  
“ turday night, that it was probable their designe  
“ was toward *Staffordshire*, and that they would  
“ take *Birmingham* in their way; the minister of  
“ *Birmingham* entreated the captaines and chiefe  
“ of the towne, by no meanes to thinke of such an  
“ impossible defence of themselves against 2000,  
“ themselves having scarce six score musqueteers  
“ in all the towne, but rather to march away with  
“ all their armes, and so secure their armes and  
“ persons, though their goods were hazarded, as a  
“ thing farre more safe and rationall, which motion  
“ the captaines and chiefe of the towne readily  
“ imbraced, but the middle and inferior sort of  
“ people (especially those that bore armes) would  
“ by no meanes be drawn to leave the towne, and  
“ so they all resolved to stand upon their own  
“ guard, otherwise the chiefe of the towne and the  
“ captaines must have departed as cowards, with  
“ great contempt many scornes and curses.”

“ On *Easter* Monday Prince *Rupert*’s forces ap-  
“ proached to the towne about 2 or 3 o’clock in the  
“ afternoone, at one end, presently assaulted it  
“ with great fury, discharging their musquets and  
“ great pieces onely about 100 musketiers opposing  
“ them (the rest hiding themselves) which were  
“ also divided into severall ends of the town, and  
“ not many in any one place, a good while the  
“ musketiers kept them off their works, and drove  
“ them back till they fired a thatched house, and  
“ burnt 2 or 3 houses at towns end and their horse  
“ also broke into the fields and came in at the back  
“ sides of the town through Lake-meadow, which  
“ forced the towns-men to retreat back into the  
“ towne to charge them, when they came up, when  
“ they slew some very considerable man who was  
“ presently stripped of his rich garments, and  
“ wrapped in a grey coat, and a woman of theirs  
“ suborned to lament for him as her husband, they  
“ called him *Adam a Bell*, but this losse so en-  
“ raged them that they presently burnt 2 or 3  
“ houses to the ground, where they conceived he  
“ was *shot*; then they broke in so forcibly upon  
“ the few *men* in the *town* that they were forced to  
“ scatter and fly for their *lives*. It is very remark-  
“ able that none of them were slaine or hurt whiles  
“ they stood upon their guard (as is credibly aver-  
“ red) till they scattered and were so singled out.  
“ The Cavaliers rode up into the towne like so

“ many furyes or bedlams, the Earle of *Denbigh* being in the front, singing as he rode, they shot at every doore or window where they could espy any looking out, they hacked, hewed, or pistolled all they met with, without distinction, blaspheming, cursing, and damning themselves most hidiously. Discovering a troope of horse, which was under the command of Captain *Greaves* at the further end of the towne facing them, they pursued after them, who after a little flight wheeled about, and most stoutly charged them through, and the captaine received five small wounds.”.....“ In which charge the Ea. of *Denbigh* was knockt off his horse, laid for dead, and his pockets rifled (though his wounds not so mortall as to die presently) the rest of his horse were chased till they came neere their own colours, which was excellent service, for meane while most of the townes foot escaped away.

“ After which Captaine *Greaves* retreated, and so advanced to *Lichfield*. Their horse rode desparatly round the town, leaping hedges and ditches (wherein one is reported to breake his neck) to catch the townes-men; no mad men could ride more furiously. They slew in their frenzy as we are informed, about 14 in all, viz. *John Carter*, junior, *William Knight*, glasier, *William Billingsley*, junior, *Joseph Rastell*, *William Turton*, cutler, *Thomas* the Ostler at *Swan*, pistolled comming officiously to take their horses,

“ *Richard Hunt* cobler, *Henry Benton* labourer,  
“ *Samuel Elsmore* cutler, *William Ward* cutler,  
“ *Richard Adams* cobler, *Widdow Collins*, *Lucas*  
“ his wife, and one Mr. *Whitehall* a minister, who  
“ hath bin long lunatick, held Jewish opinions, and  
“ had layn in Bedlam and other prisons (some say)  
“ 16, some 22 yeares, and was lately come out;  
“ they comming to him asked him if he would  
“ have quarter, he answered to this (or like pur-  
“ pose) he scorned quarter from any popish armies  
“ or souldiers, whereupon they supposing him to  
“ be Mr. *Roberts* Minister of *Birmingham*, did  
“ most cruelly mangle and hack him to death, and  
“ found certain idle and foolish papers in his pock-  
“ et, which they spared not to divulge (as they  
“ thought to the Roundheads infamy) and so went  
“ insulting up and downe the towne that they had  
“ quartered their minister, out of whose bloody  
“ hands the Lord’s gracious providence delivered  
“ him a little before the towne was assaulted, and  
“ (blessed be God) hee is neither slain nor hurt.  
“ All the considerable men escaped out of their  
“ snare, some 40 (they say) were taken prisoners,  
“ whereof scarce 20 of their own towne, all infe-  
“ rior men, most of them their own favourers, and  
“ since for trifling sums of money they are released  
“ all, save 2 or 3 (as unworthy to be kept.)”  
“ Having thus possessed themselves of the towne,  
“ they ran into every house cursing and damming,  
“ threatening and terrifying the poore women most

“ terribly, setting naked swords and pistolls to  
“ their breasts, they fell to plundering all the towne  
“ before them, as well malignants as others, pick-  
“ ing purses and pockets, searching in holes and  
“ corners, tiles of houses, wells, pooles, vaults,  
“ gardens and every place they could suspect for  
“ money and goods, forcing people to deliver all  
“ the money they had. It is credibly believed they  
“ took from one *Thomas Peake* a Councillor 1500  
“ or 1300 li. at least.” \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

“ They have had divers great summes also from  
“ others, who have shewed small love to *King and*  
“ *Parliament*; tooke much money to protect peo-  
“ ple’s houses, and afterwards betrayed them and  
“ set them on fire. It is conceived they had 3000l.  
“ in money from the towne.” They assaulted  
many women’s chastity. “ They broke the win-  
“ dowes, spoyled the goods they could not take  
“ away, and carried with them all the chiefe goods  
“ in the towne, some having little left, some no-  
“ thing but bare walls, some nothing but cloathes  
“ on their backs, and some stripped to their very  
“ shirts and left naked. That night few or none  
“ of them went to bed, but sate up revelling, rob-  
“ bing, and tyrannizing over the poore affrighted  
“ women and prisoners, drinking drunke, health-  
“ ing upon their knees, yea drinking healths to  
“ Prince *Rupert’s* dog.”

“ Nor did their rage here cease, but when on  
“ next day they were to march forth of the towne,  
“ they used all possible diligence in every street to  
“ kindle fire in the towne with gunpowder, match,  
“ wispes of straw, and besomes burning coales of  
“ fire &c. flung into straw, hay, kid piles, coffers,  
“ thatch, and any other places where it was likely  
“ to catch hold; many of which attempts were  
“ successlesse and found after their departure, yea,  
“ it is confidently related that they shot fire out of  
“ their pistolls, wrapping lighted match with pow-  
“ der or some other ingredients in formes of slugs,  
“ or bullets in brown paper, which themselves con-  
“ fessed was the Lord *Digbie's* devise, that English  
“ firebrand; and lest any should save any of their  
“ goods they had left, or quench their flames, they  
“ stood with their drawne swords and pistolls,  
“ about the burning houses, shooting and indea-  
“ vouring to kill every one that appeared to pre-  
“ serve goods, and quench the fire, domineering at  
“ the flames, *Where's your Coventry now? Where's*  
“ *your God Brookes now? You may see how God*  
“ *fights against you, &c.* And when some of the  
“ towne (whose purses had dearely purchased some  
“ interest among them) diswaded them from fur-  
“ ther fiering, one of their owne men confessed that  
“ every *Quartermaster* was sworne to fire his owne  
“ quarter, and that they durst not but doe it. By  
“ all which it notoriously appeares, that theire full

“ intention was, and that by command (let them  
“ pretend what excuse they can) to burne downe the  
“ whole towne to the ground, and doubtlesse would  
“ have done it, had not the Lord been the more mer-  
“ ciful; the houses burned, were about 87, besides  
“ multitudes of barnes, stables, and other back  
“ buildings, belonging both to these dwelling  
“ houses and to others that escaped the flames.  
“ Persons unfurnished and fallen into extreme  
“ distresse by this fire, 340 and upwards. So  
“ that many are quite undone by these barbarous  
“ cruelties, which are so much the more cruell,  
“ in as much as all these (except five or six houses)  
“ were burnt in cool blood, the next day after  
“ they had sacked the towne. And yet for all this  
“ the souldiers told the inhabitants, that Prince  
“ *Rupert* dealt mercifully with them: but when  
“ they came back againe with the *Queenes army*,  
“ they would leave neither man, woman, nor childe  
“ alive. Such are the cavaliers mercies. This  
“ towne (as is thought) was the first towne in  
“ the kingdom, that was generally plundered when  
“ the king marched from *Shrewsbury*, before *Keyn-  
“ ton* battell and the first that in cold blood was  
“ barbarously fyred: However Prince *Rupert* hath  
“ got himself eternall honour, by conquering so  
“ mighty an enemy as 100 musketiers, with so  
“ small an army as 2000 men. Since their depar-  
“ ture Prince *Rupert* hearing that some in *Bir-  
“ mingham*, cursed him for his cruelties, had de-

“ signed (as one of their owne party informed) two  
“ troopes of horse to fire the rest of the towne.  
“ Whereupon some of the towne petitioning him  
“ not to doe it, he replyed he would not if they re-  
“ belled not againe, nor returned to their vomit.  
“ Sithence they have caused one Mr. *Porter's*  
“ blademill in the towne, to be pulled downe,  
“ wherein swordblades were made and employed,  
“ onely for the service of the Parliament, and so  
“ they were informed (which cost erecting about  
“ 100l.) threatning if it were not pulled downe,  
“ the rest of the towne should be burnt. For now  
“ they begin to be great agents in fire worke.

“ On their part it is probably believed there fell  
“ three very considerable men, viz. Earle of Den-  
“ bigh who died not long after of his wounds, ano-  
“ ther as is supposed, was Sir *William Ayres*.  
“ The third as yet not knowne.

“ Certainly two coffins were made in *Birming-  
ham*. while the Earle of *Denbigh* was alive; and  
“ many common souldiers are supposed to be  
“ slaine, some suspected to be buryed in the breast-  
“ workes ditch they entred, which they laid flat,  
“ and charged that none should meddle with it  
“ upon paine of death, and when they came into  
“ the towne, they cursed at the round-heads, and  
“ swore *they shot, as if they had been shooting at  
sparrowes, scarce ever missed man or horse*.  
“ They tooke away two cart load of wounded men,  
“ about 12 in a cart, when they went away. Now

“ they have made *Birmingham* a woful spectacle  
“ to behold, a thorow faire for thieves and plun-  
“ derers; the rich are wofully wasted and spoyled,  
“ multitudes almost quite beggered, and undone;  
“ it is thought 20000l. cannot repaire theire *losses*,  
“ their own malignant neighbours rage at the well  
“ affected, like mad men, theire minister is driven  
“ from home, debarred from all imployment and  
“ deprived of all his maintenance; besides his  
“ many losses by fire and plundering, and till those  
“ parts be cleared small hopes of his safe returne,  
“ being so much maligned and threatned by the  
“ cavaliers, and the domineering anti-guard left in  
“ *Birmingham*. The people that are left are fed  
“ with such rayling sermons as one *Orton* curate to  
“ Parson Smith the ancient pluralist can afford  
“ them, rankly tempered with the malignancy of  
“ his owne distempered spirit. And all well af-  
“ fected people are forced to be absent from their  
“ habitations, to their excessive charge in this their  
“ low estate, for feare of surprizalls, large summes  
“ being proffered to apprehend them, especially  
“ those of better ranke.”

Here terminate our extracts from the three tracts alluded to. Another illustrative extract may however be acceptable, from “ *Vicars's God in the Mount, or England's Parliamentarie Chronicle*,” p. 296.

“ April the 8th came certain intelligence to *Lon-*  
“ *don* from *Brumingham* of the cruell slaughter of

“ diverse of the inhabitants of that honest town,  
“ and that about eighty of their dwelling-houses  
“ were burnt downe by that barbarous and butch-  
“ erly Prince of *Robbers*, and his accursed cava-  
“ liers. But yet withall, that his filching forces got  
“ little by their so inhumane barbarity: for, God  
“ fought for those poore unarmed inhabitants, who  
“ were for the most part, smiths, whose profession  
“ or trade was to make nails, sythes, and such like  
“ iron commodities; and that with such iron wea-  
“ pons as they had they so knocked the Earl of  
“ *Denbigh* that he received his deaths wound in  
“ his furious pursuit of some of them, and imme-  
“ diately after dyed of those his wounds: And  
“ with him also (as it was credibly informed) the  
“ Lord *Digby* that arch traitor to the Common-  
“ wealth of *Englaud* was sorely wounded in the  
“ same fight. And this also was noted and cre-  
“ dibly informed thence as a remarkable provi-  
“ dence of the Lord. That in the plundering and  
“ burning of this town the greatest losse was to  
“ the malignant partie of that town who inhabited  
“ among them, most of the honest and godly men  
“ there, having by Gods mercy and good provi-  
“ dence carryed & conveyed away their best goods  
“ into *Coventry*, before the cavaliers came to their  
“ town.”\*

\* Though the troubles at Birmingham in the Civil War against Charles the First must have been familiar to Sir William Dugdale, and took place thirteen years before the publication of his *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, yet they are not at all

Mr. Hutton, in his History of Birmingham, transcribes, *as from the Newspapers of the day*, the passage last quoted, not verbatim, but in substance only; he also refers very slightly to Clarendon; but does not appear to have been aware of the existence of the three Tracts recently reprinted, which, however, his Daughter has noticed in the fourth edition of her father's History of Birmingham, published since his death, and subsequently to the republication of those Tracts.

A few other particulars illustrative of the event under consideration appear in Mr. Hutton's History, a work of considerable merit and interest, but with one prevailing defect throughout, namely, the want of *authorities*, which in an historical work are essentially requisite to vouch for the facts and circumstances represented. He states that the inhabitants choked up with carriages the deep and narrow road then between *Deritend* and *Camp-hill*, which obliged the *Prince* to alter his route to the *left*, and proceed towards *Long Bridge*: that part of the vanquished took the way to *Oldbury*, and that the Earl of Denbigh received his mortal wound in *Shireland-lane*, in the manor of *Smethwick*, while in pursuit of them—that the clergyman who acted

noticed in the observations on Birmingham contained in that work. But Sir William only professed to illustrate the *Antiquities* of the County, therefore events so *recent* would not regularly fall within his plan. Dr. Thomas, his Continuator, is also silent on the subject, though his edition of Dugdale was not published till 1730, being 87 years after the date of the occurrences which are the subject of these remarks.

as governor of the town, and refused quarter, was killed in the *Red Lion Inn*—that part of the fine which the Prince exacted from the town, is said to have been shoes and stockings for his people—that the Parliament forces had formed their camp in that well chosen angle, which divides the Stratford and Warwick roads, upon *Camp-hill*: that the victorious Prince left no garrison, because the insignificant works of the place were untenable; but left a humbled people, and marched to the reduction of Lichfield. Mr. Hutton also observes, that he had a cannon ball, said to have been found at Camp-hill, weighing upwards of six pounds, and being 12 inches in circumference.\*

We have now communicated all the information within our reach relative to the calamities brought upon Birmingham by civil war, and may congratulate the present generation on being happily far removed from any practical illustration of such scenes of horror.

In 1665, Birmingham felt that dreadful mark of Divine judgment the plague, which visited London and many other parts of England in the same year. The infection is said to have been caught here by a box of clothes brought by a carrier, and lodged at the White Hart. Depopulation ensued. The church-yard was insufficient for the reception of the dead, who were conveyed to Lady-wood Green, one acre of waste land, thence denominated the Pest Ground.\*

\* Hutton's Birmingham.

In 1688 (observes Mr. Hutton) when the nation chose to expel a race of Kings, because they had forgotten the limits of justice, our (then) peaceable Sons of Art, wisely considering that oppression and commerce, like oil and water, could never unite, smiled with the rest of the kingdom at the landing of the Prince of Orange, and exerted their little assistance towards effecting the Revolution.\*

Having brought down the Ancient History of Birmingham to this period (from which may be dated the rising importance of the place) we shall here close the present department of our work; referring our readers for other matters, of less general application, to the several other heads under which they properly fall.

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### MODERN OCCURRENCES.

Of the occurrences of modern times, save those which will be comprised under the several subsequent heads of this work, there is nothing of especial interest but

#### THE RIOTS OF 1791.†

“ When the rabble’s headlong rage

“ Order transform’d to anarchy and spoil.”—*Beattie.*

If we look to the causes which stimulated the once peaceable inhabitants of Birmingham (re-

\* Hutton’s Hist. of Birmingham.

† This Narrative of the Riots is chiefly taken from an “ Authentic Account” thereof published by J. Belcher, printer, in

marked for their industry and obedience to the laws) to the atrocious and daring acts of violence now to be narrated, we shall discover them in religious and political animosities, between the Churchmen and Dissenters; aided not a little by ignorance, for the labouring class of people in this town, being brought up from an early age to habits of industry in the various manufactories, the attention which their employments require, together with the necessary relaxations from business, leave little or no time for the improvement of the mind: they are taught to *act*, and not to *think*.

The vigorous and repeated attempts of the Dissenters to obtain a repeal of the Corporation and Test Laws,\* excited much alarm and apprehension amongst many of the Established Clergy, and were most forcibly felt by those residing in Birmingham. The name and writings of Dr. Priestley were as much dreaded by his opponents, as they were admired by his friends; and as he long resided near this town, and was eminently conspicuous in his endeavours to procure a repeal of those laws, and in the promulgation of Unitarian doctrines, it is not surprising that his sentiments should have been represented to the lower classes of the people as dangerous to the Church and State.

September, 1791; but Mr. Hutton's Narrative, and various other publications connected with the subject, have also been consulted.

\* Thirty-seven years after, viz. in 1828, the Legislature submitted to the repeal of these Laws.

Attacks made upon his principles and motives in different pulpits, were answered from the press, and produced, among other things, his "Familiar Letters addressed to the Inhabitants of Birmingham," in which his opponents are combated with much force and severity. In the course of his controversial publications, the Doctor had made a comparison of the progress of free enquiry, to the action of gunpowder. The conclusion of the passage ran thus:—"The present silent propagation of truth may even be compared to those causes in nature which lie dormant for a time, but which, in proper circumstances, act with the greatest violence. We are, as it were, laying gunpowder, grain by grain, under the old building of error and superstition, which a single spark may hereafter inflame, so as to produce an instantaneous explosion; in consequence of which that edifice, the erection of which has been the work of ages, may be overturned in a moment, and so effectually, as that the same foundation can never be built upon again." Discourses, p. 184, and see preface to Familiar Letters, second edition, p. 9. This unfortunate paragraph (which Dr. Priestley himself admitted it to have been) became to the enemies of the Dissenters a common topic of allusion; and was read in the House of Commons, as an unquestionable proof of the dangerous designs of that body with respect to the Constitution of this Country. Hence the *mischievous thinkers* found no

difficulty in persuading the *unthinking actors*, that the real intentions of the Dissenters were to destroy the Churches.

The minds of the inferior classes of people being thus prejudiced and contaminated, an *opportunity* was only wanting to shew their *attachment* to the *Church* and *King*; this opportunity presented itself upon notice being given that it was the intention of the friends of freedom to celebrate the anniversary of the French Revolution, with which intention Dr. Priestley and the Dissenters were especially identified.

As a further stimulus to the exertions of the populace, a report was industriously circulated amongst them, that the magistrates were unfriendly to the Dissenters, and would afford encouragement to the destruction of their places of worship. The mere assertion was sufficient to gain credence with the populace, and, thus armed with fancied authority, they entered upon a work, not only of choice, but, as they would consider, of duty also. Unfortunately, it was not till after inebriation and success had rendered them ungovernable, that active measures were employed to undeceive them.

The first advertisement announcing the proposed meeting of the Friends of Freedom, was dated Hotel, Birmingham, July 7, being seven days before the day of meeting, which was to be on the 14th. On the appearance of this advertisement in the Birmingham Gazette, another advertisement

was likewise inserted, that a list of those who dined at the Hotel, would be published on the next day. This last advertisement was certainly intended to intimidate the meeting at the Hotel, and alarm the people. About this time a few copies of a most imprudent and seditious hand bill were privately circulated, and increased the growing ferment. This Paper was immediately succeeded by one published in refutation of its calumnies, and as an antidote to its mischievous tendency. In addition to which, the authorities of the town offered by public advertisement on the morning of the 14th, a reward of one hundred guineas for the discovery of the Writer, Printer, Publisher, or Distributor of the inflammatory hand bill, so that he or they might be convicted thereof. The gentleman who proposed the Meeting also published an advertisement expressing their disapprobation of the hand bill, and their ignorance of its author.

Whether the hand bill complained of was written by an imprudent friend of the Revolution, or an enemy to the Dissenters, is not known. Every attempt to trace it to its source, proved ineffectual, notwithstanding the Dissenters afterwards offered an additional reward of one hundred guineas, and government also proclaimed a further reward of one hundred pounds. Mr. Hutton states it to have been fabricated in London, brought to Birmingham, and privately scattered under the table of an Inn. This bill, criminal as it was in itself, was rendered

doubly so by its publication at that particular period, when (if it was not the intention of the author) it was natural to conclude that it might produce improper effects on the previously irritated minds of the populace.

On Thursday, July 14, 1791, in conformity to their advertisement, about eighty gentlemen assembled and dined together at the Hotel, in Temple-row (then kept by Mr. —— Dadley), to celebrate the Anniversary of the Revolution in France, on which occasion a variety of toasts and sentiments, appropriate to the object of the meeting, were given. The populace, identifying this meeting with the Dissenting party, and considering the persons attending it as a knot of Revolutionists, met to communicate and encourage disaffected sentiments towards Church and State, assembled in front of the house, and first gave vent to their exasperated displeasure by hissing and hooting. Towards eight o'clock in the evening a large and riotous mob had collected, who raised a cry of Church and King, and commenced active operations by breaking the windows of the Hotel. Dr. Priestley was sought for, but he had not dined there.

From thence they proceeded to the New Meeting House (Dr. Priestley's), a large and handsome building, the gates and doors of which were soon burst open, the pews were demolished, the cushions and fragments carried out and burnt in front of the building, and at length fire was carried

in, which consumed it to the outer walls. A very valuable Library, belonging to the Congregation, was likewise destroyed. Happily for the surrounding neighbours the evening was remarkably serene, or the violence of the flames would have carried certain destruction to a considerable distance.

Soon afterwards the Old Meeting House was attacked by another party, armed with iron crows, bludgeons, &c. who tore down the pulpit, pews, and galleries, and burnt them in the burying ground ; they afterwards set fire to the body of the Meeting, but permitted the engines to play upon the adjoining buildings, which were saved. At the destruction of the above, as well as of the succeeding places, the rioters were particularly active in securing lead, iron, and various other articles, which they seemed to think themselves fully entitled to for their zeal and assiduity.

From the Meetings detachments moved off to Dr. Priestley's house, at Fair Hill, rather more than a mile from Birmingham, which was attacked with savage fury. They began by breaking down the doors and windows, and throwing from every part of the house the furniture, library, &c. but as some of the Doctor's friends were in the house before the banditti, they employed themselves in packing up and removing part of the library, and several valuable articles of furniture ; unfortunately the books were afterwards discovered and destroyed. The

depredators expressed their disappointment at the Doctor's escape by the most violent words: and could they have gained possession of his person, the consequences must certainly have proved fatal to him. Happily he was prevailed upon to leave his house before the arrival of the mob, but he had not time to secure any of his manuscripts, the destruction of which the Doctor greatly lamented, as they were the result of the laborious study of many years, and which he would never be able to re-compose.

The shrubs, trees, &c. in the garden were torn up or trampled upon; but there was reason for some time to hope that the Elaboratory (a little distance from the house) would have been saved, nor did it appear to have been noticed as long as the liquors in the cellar lasted, of the spirituous part of which some of the rioters had drank so immoderately, that they seemed no longer to have existence; while others had been rendered so extremely quarrelsome by the plentiful draughts they had taken of wine and ale, that many battles among themselves were being fought at one time in the adjoining field. The battles collected the greater part of the rioters round them, and the house (the floors of which were now strewn over with torn manuscripts, books, &c.) was, as long as these battles lasted, almost cleared of intruders; when, however, the combats ceased, the mob returned to the premises, the Elaboratory was then broken into, and the

Doctor's truly valuable and useful collection of philosophical apparatus and instruments destroyed. The whole building was soon after set on fire ; a man was killed by the falling of a cornice stone, and nothing of the house, offices, &c. remained but the bare walls.

On Friday morning, as they recovered from the fatigue and intoxication of the preceding night, different parties of the rioters entered the town, to the great consternation of the inhabitants. Business was at a stand, and the shops were closed. The doors of every place of confinement were thrown open, by which the rioters gained some accession of strength, and they paraded through the streets, armed with bludgeons, loudly vociferating Church and King, words which the inhabitants now chalked upon their window shutters and doors, for the security of their dwellings. In the course of the morning, the Earl of Aylesford arrived at Dr. Priestley's ; he harangued what remained of the mob at Fair Hill, and brought them from this scene of devastation into the town, where he again addressed them, and persuaded them to disperse, and retire to their respective homes and occupations. About the same time the magistrates of the place, and many of the principal inhabitants, were, with other parties, in St. Philip's church-yard, endeavouring by the most conciliating language to induce them to separate and desist from further violence.

All attempts, however, to check their proceedings, and restore peace and order, proved fruitless.

About two o'clock the elegant mansion of Mr. John Ryland (late Mr. Baskerville's), at Easy-hill, was attacked, and though the rioters were once or twice repulsed, it was not long before they possessed themselves of the house, and set it on fire. Here many of them were so insensible of their danger, that the flames caught them in the upper chambers, and others were in such a state of intoxication, that they could not be drawn from, but perished in, the cellars. Several of the rioters, most terribly scorched and bruised, were conveyed to the Hospital, some of whom there died; seven bodies, so much disfigured that they could hardly be recognised, have been dug out of the ruins; and a man on the following Monday (who had been immured in one of the vaults) worked his way out, but soon afterwards expired upon the grass.

While the house of Mr. Ryland was burning, the magistrates, anxious to preserve the town from further outrage until the military (who were sent for) could arrive, adopted the measure of swearing in a number of the inhabitants as additional constables. A party of them immediately proceeded to Mr. Ryland's, but after a conflict of some continuance, they were driven off by the enraged multitude, and obliged to retire without effecting any useful purpose. Mr. Thomas Ashwin, one of the constables, was killed.

Information being received about the same time that the country residence of John Taylor, Esq. at Bordesley (about half a mile from the town) was attacked, another party of the gentlemen who had been sworn constables, headed by Captain Carver, repaired thither; they found the rioters in the cellars, and drove them from the premises, of which they kept possession a sufficient length of time to remove Mr. Taylor's title deeds, writings, &c. and some small part of the furniture. Towards the evening, however, by the junction of those from Mr. Ryland's and other parts, the rioters had acquired such an accession of strength, that all resistance here was ineffectual, and many of the gentlemen were much beaten. Under these circumstances Captain Carver made a last effort to save the house. He offered the rioters 100 guineas if they would not burn it. He was answered by the cry of "No bribery," hustled immediately into the midst of them, and narrowly escaped their fury. When the night set in, the flames appeared through the roof, and this beautiful and spacious mansion, with most of its superb furniture, stables, offices, and ricks, was reduced to its mere walls.

This night the house of Mr. Hutton (the historian of Birmingham), in the High-street, which had been assaulted once or twice in the day, was entered, and completely stripped of its contents; his large stock of paper, his son's very valuable library, and all his furniture, were destroyed or car-

ried away. A woman made an attempt to fire the house, but was prevented by the surrounding spectators, out of regard to the neighbouring buildings.

From Mr. Hutton's house in town, they proceeded early on Saturday morning to his country house at Washwood Heath, three miles from hence, which, with its offices, they reduced to ashes. The occasion of Mr. Hutton being so obnoxious to the rioters did not arise from his religious principles, but on account of his being a very active Commissioner of the Court of Requests, in which department he had rendered most essential service to the town.

This morning also, the large and elegant mansion of Mr. George Humphrys, at Spark-brook, was attacked; and from the generosity of Mr. Humphrys, and the remonstrances of his friends, there was reason, for some time, to expect they would have been diverted from their object; but, at length, stupified by intoxication, deaf to remonstrance, and divested of every sentiment of gratitude, they forcibly entered the house (after a smart resistance) and ransacked it of all its rich furniture; after destroying the inside work, breaking all the windows, and doing other mischief, they went off without burning it.

They then proceeded to the house of William Russell, Esq. at Showell Green (the greater part of the furniture of which had been previously removed) and after ransacking it, they consumed it, together with the out-offices.

Mr. T. Hawkes, of Moseley Wake Green, was the next sufferer; his house was stripped of its windows, books, and furniture, which were either destroyed or carried away.

The next object of the rioters was Moseley Hall, the property of John Taylor, Esq. but occupied by the Dowager Countess of Carhampton, to whom they had given notice to remove her effects; her Ladyship complied with their request, and in the evening this large and beautiful stone mansion, together with all the out-offices, hay ricks, &c. was destroyed.

The house of Mr. Harwood, in the neighbourhood of Moseley, was also burnt and destroyed; as was likewise the house of the Rev. Mr. Hobson, on the Moseley road.

The terror and distress which pervaded the whole town on Saturday, while these dreadful scenes were acting, will be better conceived than described. The magistrates had tried every means of persuasion to no effect; large bills were stuck up requesting all persons to retire to their respective homes, to no purpose; nothing certain was known respecting the approach of the military; and numbers of the rioters, joined by thieves and drunken prostitutes from every quarter, were, with blue cockades in their hats, in all parts of the town, levying contributions on the inhabitants. There was scarcely a housekeeper who dared refuse them meat, drink, money, or whatever they demanded.

The shops were mostly shut up, business nearly at a stand, and the inhabitants employed in secreting and removing their valuables. Very happily, however, the body of the rioters, overcome with liquor and fatigue, lay all night in the fields, round their conflagrations in the country, and did not come into the town; the first intelligence which was received of them on Sunday morning was, that a party was gone to Kingswood, about seven miles off, where they burnt the Dissenting Meeting House and the dwelling house for the minister; also the premises of Mr. Cox, a farmer, at Worstock.

In the afternoon another party had assembled at Edgbaston Hall, the residence of Dr. Withering, which place they visited the day before, but left uninjured, after being regaled with the Doctor's liquor. They now, however, notwithstanding the plentiful manner in which the liquor was dealt out to them, appeared determined to plunder the Hall; some of the rooms were pillaged, and they were even preparing, as it was thought, to destroy the place, when information was received that troops were approaching Birmingham. No sooner had the rioters notice of this, than the major part of them sneaked off in different directions in small bodies; and the few that at last remained were quickly driven off the premises by the neighbours. Dr. Withering's books, philosophical apparatus, and valuable collections in natural history, suffered much by the hasty removal of them after the first alarm.

The reader will easily judge what a relief this certain intelligence of the approach of the military must have afforded the alarmed and agitated minds of the inhabitants of the town. Thousands went out to meet them, and about nine o'clock three troops of the 15th regiment of dragoons, attended by the magistrates, entered this place, amidst the acclamations of the people and illuminations of the streets through which they passed. They halted at the Swan Inn, where the fatigued and fainting state of both officers and men evinced the exertions they had made for our relief. About seven o'clock that morning the Minister's express had arrived with orders for them to march hither; at half past ten o'clock they left Nottingham, and though the greater part of their horses were hastily fetched from grass, such was their zeal in the service, that they arrived at Erdington, within four miles of the town (after a journey of upwards of fifty-three miles) a little after seven o'clock. Captain Polhill, who commanded, brought the troops the first forty miles without halting.

The arrival of the military not only dissipated the apprehensions of the inhabitants, but immediately restored tranquillity to the town. On Monday what few remained of the rioters took their course towards King's Norton, Bromsgrove, and Hales Owen, where, divided into small parties, they levied contributions on the peasantry. On Tuesday night a body of them having assaulted

Mr. Male's house, at Belle Vue, near the Leasowes, the Earl of Aylesford, with Justice Woodcock, and a few of the light dragoons, hastened thither. The people of the neighbourhood had, however, before their arrival, overpowered the rioters, and secured ten of them. Upon this his Lordship returned with the troops, and the lawless banditti, which had the two preceding days so much terrified the country, it is believed, made their last appearance in any numbers here.

Many houses in the town and neighbourhood (besides those already enumerated) partially suffered, but were saved from destruction either by persuasion, or by the gift of money or liquor; among these were the houses of Mr. T. Russell, near Moseley; of Mr. Harry Hunt, at Lady-wood; of the Rev. Mr. Coates, at the Five-ways; and Mr. Smith's house, Hay Hall. Mr. Jukes having intimation that his house in the Green Lanes was to be attacked, removed all his furniture, liquors, &c. took out his sashes and window frames, and conveyed whatever the rioters were likely to pull down to a place of security. Owing to this judicious conduct, and the remonstrances and singular exertions of the Rev. Mr. Darwall, the house was saved from destruction.

Other troops arriving and continuing in the town, peace and security, restored by the first arrival of the military, were effectually secured.

The magistrates of the town were assisted by the

Earl of Aylesford, the Earl of Plymouth, Captain Finch, Sir Robert Lawley, Mr. Cecil, Mr. Moland, Mr. Digby, Mr. Holbeche, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Woodcock, and others, to whom the town was under great obligations for their exertions.

As an acknowledgment for the expedition and good behaviour of the three troops of light horse which first came to the relief of the town, the Dissenters presented them with one hundred pounds; and at a town's meeting the like sum was voted to the privates; also a handsome sword to each officer, and a piece of plate, value one hundred guineas, to each of the magistrates.

On the restoration of tranquillity, the magistrates took active measures, in which they were assisted by government, for bringing the delinquents to justice, and they committed fifteen of the rioters to Warwick and Worcester county prisons, for trial, and issued out warrants for the apprehension of many others, who had absconded.

The trials of the accused took place at the ensuing Worcester and Warwick assizes. Several were acquitted, either from defects in evidence or on points of law; and of those found guilty only two were executed, viz. Francis Field, alias Rodney, for setting fire to the dwelling house of John Taylor, Esq. at Bordesley, and John Green, for pulling down the dwelling house of Dr. Priestley.—They suffered at Warwick on the 8th of September

Fisher, one of the convicts sentenced to death, afterwards received a free pardon.

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#### INCREASE OF THE TOWN.—POPULATION.

PREVIOUSLY to the restoration of Charles the Second in 1661, Birmingham had for many centuries consisted chiefly of one long street, or continued line of streets, extending from Deritend to Bull-street, in a direction from south-east to north, with several side streets as outlets, some of them connected with the main street by narrow covered gateways.

In the year 1600 the population must have been very inconsiderable, the register-book at St. Martin's, then the only church, containing in that year but 54 baptisms, 10 weddings, and 32 burials; yet a gradual increase was even then evinced in the excess of baptisms over burials.

According to the probable conjectures of Mr. Hutton, the town contained at the time of the Restoration about 15 streets, 907 houses, and 5,472 inhabitants; and he carries back the same numbers to the year 1650.

In 1700 it contained 30 streets, 100 courts and alleys, 2,504 houses, and 15,032 inhabitants; 1 church, St. Martin's; 1 chapel, St. John's, in De-

ritend; 2 dissenting meeting-houses; and the school founded by King Edward the Sixth.\*

From 1700 to 1731 (in which interval St. Philip's Church, the Blue Coat School, since enlarged, the Market Cross, called the Welch Cross, and two additional Meeting-houses had been erected) the increase of the town was 25 streets, 50 courts and alleys, 1,215 houses, and 8,254 inhabitants.\* The number of streets, it will be observed, was, in that period, nearly doubled, and the population advanced from 15,000 to upwards of 23,000.

From 1731 to 1778, a period of nearly half a century, during which time two new Chapels (St. Bartholomew's and St. Mary's) had been erected, and a Canal formed from Birmingham to the collieries, the number both of houses and inhabitants had nearly doubled; the former being 7,200, and the latter 42,550.†

It is supposed that the above numbers included the adjoining hamlets of Deritend and Bordesley, and, at the latter date, such part of the town also as had then extended into the hamlet of Duddes-ton; but, in the authorities consulted, the fact does not very distinctly appear.

\* W. Westley's Plan of Birmingham, 1731.

† Hanson's Plan of Birmingham, 1778. Mr. Hutton, in his History of Birmingham, states, with reference to the same year (1778) that Birmingham, *exclusive of the appendages*, contained 8,042 houses, and 48,252 inhabitants. Both Mr. Hanson's and Mr. Hutton's numbers may have been in some degree conjectural. We cannot otherwise account for the disparity.

From 1778 to 1801, when the first census was taken under the Population Act, the increase of population was upwards of 18,000; from 1801 to 1811, nearly 10,000; and from 1811 to 1821, upwards of 15,000. These numbers apply to the parish of Birmingham exclusively. The population of that part of the adjoining parish of Aston which forms a part of the town was in 1801, 8,562; in 1811, 11,046; and in 1821, 15,707; the latter number being added to that for Birmingham in the same year (85,416) makes the total population of the whole town at that time (1821) to have been 101,123.

This number has since increased, and is still increasing in a ratio probably equal, if not higher, than that of the ten years preceding the last census in 1821.

The present number of inhabitants may be fairly estimated at 110,000, and of houses (which have progressively increased in number proportionably with the increase of population) at nearly 20,000. These numbers, after allowing for uninhabited houses, give an average of a fraction more than five persons to a house.

Among the chief public buildings erected or finished between 1778 and 1801 are the General Hospital, St. Paul's Chapel, the Theatre, and the Barracks. Two new Canals, one to Warwick, the other to Worcester, were also commenced, and the old Company cut a new line to Fazeley during the same period.

Since 1801 Christ Church has been erected, the Dispensary, Public-office, and Prison; and within the last ten years, St. George's Church, St. Peter's Church, and Trinity Chapel. Another Church, to be dedicated to St. Thomas, is now nearly completed. Other public buildings have also been erected, but, as the whole of them will be separately described in the subsequent pages, particular mention of them is here unnecessary.

Mr. Hutton, in his History of the Town, comprises in one view the state of Birmingham at ten different periods, observing that though some are imaginary, perhaps they are not far from real.

	<i>Streets.</i>		<i>Houses.</i>		<i>Souls.</i>
In the time of the Ancient Britons } — ..		80 ..		400	
A. D. 750 ..	8 ..	600 ..		3,000	
1066 ..	9 ..	700 ..		3,500	
1650 ..	15 ..	900 ..		5,472	
1700 ..	28 ..	2,504 ..		15,032	
1731 ..	51 ..	3,717 ..		23,286	
1741 ..	54 ..	4,114 ..		24,660	
1778 ..	— ..	8,042 ..		48,252	
1781 ..	125 ..	8,382 ..		50,295	
1791 ..	203 ..	12,681 ..		73,653	

To these we add the number of houses and inhabitants at three succeeding periods, according to the returns made under the Population Act.

1801	....	....	15,650 ..	69,384
1811	....	....	16,096 ..	81,253
1821	....	....	.... ..	101,123

It appears from the above list that, between the years 1791 and 1801, the population had *decreased* more than 4,000, while the number of houses, during the same period, *increased* nearly 3,000 (chiefly of small size). The rage for building, which produced so many additional houses, was miserably checked by the combined or consecutive effects of war, stagnation of trade, scarcity, and the high price of provisions. Numbers of workmen, thrown out of employ, entered the army or navy—their masters the Gazette—and their wives and families the workhouse or the grave; hence, in 1801, the number of *houses* returned as *uninhabited* reached the enormous amount of 1850, a number more than double that of the houses which constituted the whole town in 1650.

The Riots, too, happening in the above period, rendered it altogether the most disastrous in the annals of Birmingham.

Since 1801 there have been occasional periods of severe distress, notwithstanding which the population has, from that time, regularly and rapidly increased to its present great amount, which, compared with that of 1650, is as 20 to 1.

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#### CHARACTER AND CONDITION OF SOCIETY.

IN the character of the people of Birmingham we find mechanical ingenuity, indefatigable indus-

try, and habits of contentment, united to a free, active, and generous spirit. Their conduct towards strangers is marked with candour and civility; they are social and kind towards each other; remarkably free from pride and prejudice; and their manners *generally* are perhaps superior to those of many other large manufacturing communities.

The general harmony of the town is rarely disturbed by religious or political differences, or any kind of bigoted or party feeling. Becoming attention is shewn to the observance of religious duties, and the different places of worship are generally well attended. The number of Dissenters is considerable, of almost every known persuasion. Of Jews and Roman Catholics there are comparatively but few, though more of the latter than of the former. Every man enjoys his own peculiar faith and opinion without reproach or persecution from his neighbour.

In genuine loyalty and patriotism no people can stand higher than those of Birmingham. The late wars pressed heavily on their resources, and carried off thousands of their youth to supply the army and navy. Three battalions of Volunteers (about 600 men each) were raised in the town to assist in the general defence at the time of the threatened invasion of this country by Buonaparte; and many are the instances in which the public spirit and liberality of the people have been warmly exerted.

The benevolent disposition of the wealthier portion of the inhabitants towards their less fortunate neighbours, appears in the great number of charitable institutions existing in the town, and described in our subsequent pages.

As a consequence of the facilities which during the last ten or fifteen years have been afforded for the ordinary instruction of youth, there now prevails among the artizans of the town an increasing desire for the attainment of useful and scientific knowledge; to promote which, the Mechanics' Institution established here is admirably adapted. The fine arts, too (so intimately connected with many of the ornamental productions of the place), are in a state of rapid improvement. The Society in New-street, established a few years since for their encouragement, afforded the first public stimulus; and now another similar Institution has just been formed to render its co-operative aid.

Music is extensively cultivated and liberally patronised among us; but the Drama is much neglected.

A taste for the higher branches of literature, though respectably supported in Birmingham, is necessarily confined to a comparatively small portion of the inhabitants. The ordinary productions of the press are in pretty general request.

The principal classes of society are liberal in their style of living and dress, and of friendly and

hospitable disposition. Their neat and comfortable villa residences ornament the borders of the town in almost every direction.

Excepting those engaged in the learned professions, nearly the whole of the inhabitants are in some way connected with the trade of the place. There are but few persons of ancient family or independent fortune. Hence it is that none of those marked distinctions of rank generated by family pride and inordinate wealth are observable in Birmingham.

The labouring classes, taken as a body, are provident and steady in their conduct, and maintain themselves and families in a very creditable manner. Their personal appearance and apparel is generally decent and becoming. Feelings of independence are promoted, and much good is effected among them by the many Clubs or Friendly Societies established throughout the town for the mutual relief of the members in sickness and old age. Unfortunately most of these clubs are held at public houses, where something must be spent on every night of meeting for the benefit of the host. This objection, however, would be in a great degree removed by the adoption of the General Friendly Institution proposed to be established here in connection with the Savings Bank now in successful operation.

The number of poor requiring parochial relief is at all times necessarily considerable; but we are

happy to observe, that within the last ten years it has much decreased. In 1818 the total amount of poor's-rates collected in Birmingham exceeded £61,000, whereas in the last year, 1827, the total was but little more than £35,000, a most gratifying diminution.

The people generally enjoy good health, and are particularly free from epidemic and contagious diseases. This may be owing not only to the dry soil, good air, and general cleanliness of the place, but to the circumstance of nearly every separate family occupying a separate house, and that of modern construction.

Crimes of an atrocious nature are but seldom committed in Birmingham. Pilfering, and the temptations to it, are unfortunately too prevalent, as are also the usual immoralities incident to a large population in a manufacturing town.

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#### MANUFACTURES, TRADE, AND COMMERCE.

WE now enter upon that field in which the genius of Birmingham has so long and so industriously laboured, and which has been the fertile source of her increase, her improvement, and her wealth. But for the advantages thus derived, and the free reception given to every one disposed to settle in the place, Birmingham, instead of being

celebrated, as she is throughout the whole civilized world, for the various productions of her mechanical skill, might have remained a poor insignificant town, hardly known beyond her immediate precincts.

In early times the manufacture of articles of iron appears to have been the chief occupation of the inhabitants, who then, as at the present time, procured their material and fuel from the contiguous iron and coal mines of Staffordshire; those of Wednesbury, now nearly exhausted, being distant but about eight miles. Mr. Hutton's opinion, that the Birmingham forge supplied the Ancient Britons with their instruments of war, the sword, spear, shield, and scythe, is strongly supported by circumstantial evidence and probable conjecture.

Leland, who wrote in the reign of Henry the VIIIth, in his remarks on this town, quoted at length in page 21 of the present work, observes, "There be many smithes in the towne that use to make knives and all manour of cuttinge tooles, and many loriners that make bittes, and a great many naylors. Soe that a great parte of the towne is maintained by smithes whoe have theire iron and sea cole out of Staffordshire."

Camden, who wrote in the reign of Elizabeth, and is also before quoted at page 23, speaks of the place as "swarming with inhabitants and echoing with the noise of anvils (for here are great numbers of smiths); to which Bishop Gibson, in his

edition of Camden's work, adds, " and of other  
" artificers in iron and steel, whose performances  
" in that way are greatly admired both at home and  
" abroad."

Dugdale also, in his *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, describes the place as " very eminent for most com-  
" modities made of iron."

In short, all accounts of Birmingham, whether ancient or modern, concur in fixing celebrity upon the place from a very remote period, for the skill of the inhabitants in the various productions of the forge.

The same spirit of ingenuity which originally exerted itself in works of iron, has been gradually extended, in an improved degree, to metals of every description, and many other materials, from all which are fabricated an infinity of useful and ornamental articles, many of them displaying much taste and elegance. Invention is ever on foot leading industry to success. We are told by Mr. Hutton that the toy trades first made their appearance in Birmingham in the beginning of the reign of Charles the Second, and brass-foundry, as he supposes, about the reign of William the Third.

The cotton, the linen, the silk, and the woollen trades, in the manufacturing departments, are almost unknown among us (except in the article of thread, which has long been manufactured here, and the making of various kinds of webs, tapes, laces, trimmings, fringe, &c. establishments for which

have been recently introduced), but almost every other description of inland manufacture, whether of the forge, the furnace, the stamp, the press, the lathe, or the file, is extensively carried on in Birmingham. A particular enumeration would exceed the limits of our work, and is the less needful as a Directory of the town is published, containing a classification of most of the trades, and may be met with at every inn.

We will, however, mention, in general terms, a few of the leading articles of Birmingham manufacture, viz. swords and other military weapons and accoutrements, fire-arms, edge-tools, saddlery, plated goods, brass-foundry, buttons, medals, jappannery, jewellery, gilt, silver, steel, ivory, bone, and other toys, brushes, wood-turnery, glass-ware, &c. Cast iron articles in great variety, as well as those of wrought iron, constitute an important branch of our manufactures.

Bellows-making is considered to be one of the oldest trades in Birmingham, and nail-making another. Very few nail forges now remain in the town, but they are plentifully scattered about some parts of the surrounding country.

The leather trade, which flourished here during many centuries, has long fallen into decay. At the east end of New-street stood a building called the Leather Hall, for the reception of hides; and of the manorial officers annually appointed, we find two called Leather Sealers, whose duty it formerly was to mark those hides which were vendible.

Among the Birmingham mechanics of the fifteenth century was one of the superior rank of an *organ-maker*, as appears by the following extract from the Hales Owen Churchwarden's book, commencing in the reign of Edward the Third, quoted by Nash in his Collections for Worcestershire, vol. ii. Appendix, p. 29, viz. " Paid for repeyling the " organs to the organ-maker at *Bromycharm*, 10s.— " 1498."

During great part of the last century the manufacture of shoe-buckles and knee-buckles was carried on here to an amazing extent; but, owing to the mutations of fashion, this branch of trade is now extinct. The steel toy trade was also once of great importance in the town, but, from the same cause, has dwindled into insignificance.

Musquets, pikes, swords,\* and other military and naval weapons were, during the late wars, manufactured here in immense quantities for government. With the return of peace the extraordinary demand for such articles ceased, and hundreds, we may even say thousands, of workmen who had long been engaged in the manufacture of them, were thrown out of employ and subjected to great distress, until by slow degrees they could turn their ability into other channels. The Proof House established in Birmingham by Act of Parliament, for proving all

\* With respect to the manufacture of Swords in former times, it may be remembered that, in one of the Tracts before quoted respecting Prince Rupert's attack on Birmingham in 1643, mention is made of Mr. Porter's blade mill in the town, which that Prince caused to be pulled down, on account of sword blades being made in it for the service of the Parliament only.

fire arms manufactured here, will be subsequently noticed under a separate head.

The late John Taylor, Esq. (who died in 1775, after acquiring a noble fortune) not only highly promoted the trade of Birmingham himself, but excited a spirit of emulation in others. Mr. Hutton observes, “ to this uncommon genius we owe the “ gilt button, the japanned and gilt snuff-boxes, “ with the numerous race of enamels. From the “ same fountain issued the painted snuff-box, at “ which one servant earned £3 10s. per week by “ painting them at a farthing each. In his shops “ were weekly manufactured buttons to the amount “ of £800, exclusive of other valuable produc-“ tions.” Here another instance is presented of the evanescent state of fancy and fashion, the kinds of snuff-box and articles of enamel formerly made in such profusion at the manufactory of Mr. Taylor, being now excluded from the list of Birmingham manufactures.

With the trade of Birmingham we must not omit to associate the celebrated manufactory at Soho, near this town (described in a subsequent article), and the honored names of the great founder of that establishment, the late Matthew Boulton, and his partner, the late James Watt, men of enlarged views and transcendant genius, by whom the arts were zealously and extensively encouraged and improved, and to the latter of whom we owe the pre-

sent highly efficient state of that mighty auxiliary of power the steam engine.

The merchants and factors in Birmingham are numerous, and through them the products of our labour are conveyed to foreign markets and to all parts of our own kingdom. The business of a factor in Birmingham is probably not of earlier date than the middle of the last century. Before that time distant shopkeepers journeyed hither and themselves purchased from the manufacturer the goods which they required. This mode of transacting business being both troublesome and expensive, some purchasers, instead of coming personally, deputed persons in the town to act for them on being allowed a commission; which species of agency, in the course of time, became a distinct business, that of the factor, who travels over the kingdom with patterns, collects the orders of the shopkeepers, and executes them on his own account. Small articles are conveyed about and exhibited in kind, on pattern-cards, but heavy goods are shewn by engraved representations.

At the manufactory and show-rooms of Mr. Thomason, in Church-street, and those of Mr. Jones (the Pantechnetheka), in New-street, may be seen an extensive and interesting display of the more ornamental and elegant varieties of Birmingham manufactures. Strangers of respectability, not connected with trade, may also inspect the process of

some of the most curious of our manufactures, on a proper application and introduction to the respective proprietors. There are many, however, who object to allow this privilege, on account of the interruption it occasions to business, and of the chance of improper persons gaining admission, by whom the privilege may be abused.

An Institution is established under the name of the *Chamber of Manufactures and Commerce*, to watch over and protect the great and general trading interests of the town. We have also a Public News Room, and other Commercial Institutions; but as all those of importance will be mentioned under their several heads in our subsequent pages, it is unnecessary to be more descriptive here.

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## MANOR.

WE have adverted in our chapter on the Ancient History of Birmingham to the fact of the Manor, after being infamously wrested by John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, from the family of *Birmingham*, having passed into that of *Marow*, of Berkswell, in this county, by grant from Queen Mary, A. D. 1555. In this family it continued nearly two centuries, but the male line failing on

the death of *Sir Samuel Marow*,\* the manor became the property of his daughters and co-heiresses, who, having disposed of their private estate in the manor, sold the manor itself, in 1746, to *Thomas Archer, Esq.* of an ancient family residing at Umberslade, in this county, from whom it descended to *Andrew Lord Archer*, on whose decease, about 1778, it came to his Lordship's daughters and co-heiresses, and is now, by some family arrangement, the property of *Christopher Musgrave, Esq.* who married one of those daughters. He, however, possesses but the bare royalty, and this has been much narrowed by the sale to the Town Commissioners of the market rights and some other of the manorial privileges.

Since the extinction of the house of *Birmingham*† it does not appear that any of the Lords have been resident here; the ancient castle or *manor-house*, therefore, went to decay, but its moated barrier, with a modern dwelling and manufactory erected in the place of the old mansion, remained, under the name of the *Moat*, until the year 1816, when every vestige was destroyed to form the ground for *Smithfield* market-place, which occupies the site.

\* Mr. Hutton records that there is in the possession of the High Bailiff a Bushel Measure cast in brass, round which in relief is, *Samuel Marrow, Lord of the Manor of Birmingham, 1664.*

† The descendants of a very early branch of this family exist in Ireland, of which the Earl of Lowth is said to be the head. The family of Bracebridge is descended from the Birmingham family in the female line.

Earl *Dudley* and *Ward* takes the title of *Baron of Birmingham* from this place, being descended by the female line from the great Norman Barons, successive Lords paramount. This title was first conferred on Humble *Ward*, an ancestor of the present peer, in the reign of Charles the First, 1643—4.

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## GOVERNMENT AND POLICE.

**BIRMINGHAM**, not being subject to any corporate jurisdiction, is governed by officers chosen annually in October, at the Court Leet of the Lord of the Manor. They are

A High Bailiff,  
A Low Bailiff,  
Two Constables,  
A Headborough,  
Two High Tasters, or Ale Conners,  
Two Low Tasters, or Flesh Conners,  
Two Affeerors,  
Two Leather Sealers.

All of whom, excepting the Constables and their Assistant, the Headborough, are mere deputies or servants of the Lord, to see to the preservation of his manorial rights. It is customary to choose the

High Bailiff from the Churchmen, and the Low Bailiff from the Dissenters.\*

To the High Bailiff is conceded, by custom, the duty, formerly exercised by the constables, of convening and conducting the business of all public meetings in the town. He is also inspector of the market, to see that justice takes place between buyer and seller, and has the power of rectifying all weights and dry measures used in the manor. He proclaims the two fairs, one at Whitsuntide, the other at Michaelmas, going in procession with the other town officers, the jury of the court leet, and a retinue of his personal friends, attended by a band of music to enliven the scene; and at the Whitsun fair he provides a sumptuous dinner, generally in the assembly-room at the Royal Hotel, for a numerous party, who are previously complimented with cards of invitation.

At the court leet held at the Public-office, Oct. 26, 1827, it was resolved, "That a book be kept by the High Bailiff for the time being, containing copies of all proceedings upon public occasions during the time he is in office; such book to be handed down from one High Bailiff to another as a record of the public expression of the opinion of the town of Birmingham."

\* The principal Officers appointed in October, 1828, for the year ensuing are—

Joseph Walker, High Bailiff;  
Thomas Osler, Low Bailiff;  
William Walker Jenkins, } Constables;  
Charles Fiddian, }  
John Cliff, Headborough.

The Low Bailiff summons a jury, by which the succeeding officers are to be appointed; and also entertains his friends with a public dinner.

The High Taster examines the goodness and measure of beer; the Low Taster inspects the meat exposed to sale, and causes that to be destroyed which is unfit for use; the Affeerors assess and ratify amercements to the Lord; and the Leather Sealers put a public seal or mark upon the hides, when Birmingham was a market for leather.

Mr. Hutton gives a list of Constables from 1680 to 1722; and another of High Bailiffs, Low Bailiffs, and Constables, from 1732.

The Police matters of the town are under the management of the Constables and Headborough, and a bench of able and highly respectable County Magistrates, resident in Birmingham and its vicinity, who sit twice every week, on Monday and Thursday, at the Public-office, in Moor-street, for the dispatch of business, which is usually abundant, but not more so than may reasonably be expected among upwards of 100,000 persons in a manufacturing town.

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## MARKETS.

### THURSDAY'S MARKET.

THE original and general market is held weekly on Thursday, pursuant to the charter granted by

Henry II. and confirmed by Richard I. (see page 15). It is a crowded and a busy scene. Horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs, in considerable numbers, are exposed for sale in Smithfield. Corn is sold by sample opposite the Nelson Hotel. The supplies from the country of poultry, eggs, butter, and cheese, at all times of the year, and of fruits, vegetables, and other things in their season, are abundant. Fish is but indifferently supplied, except at the established fish shops, where those of superior kind and quality usually fetch a high price, and are chiefly bought by innkeepers and the more wealthy inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. Manufactured articles in great variety are also plentiful. Even our mental wants are not forgotten, several second-hand book stalls being scattered about to attract the attention of the *literati*.

Many of the commodities are exhibited on temporary stalls set up for the occasion; others in baskets; and some are spread upon the pavement. The space thus occupied is the High-street, facing St. Martin's Church, and will be further described under the head *General Market-place*.

An authorised officer attends with standard scales and weights, by which those of the seller may be tried, if required.

It would be difficult to name a town so utterly destitute of proper market accommodation as Birmingham, or in which there is so little classification and arrangement of the articles brought for sale,

or so scattered a distribution of them. No market-hall or other erection exists to afford the least shelter to the people, who are consequently exposed to all the variations, severities, and inclemencies of the seasons.

It is probable, however, that the evils just mentioned will not much longer continue, the Commissioners of the Street Act having, in the last session of Parliament, obtained an Act, under the powers of which it is intended to erect a Town-hall, a Market-hall, and Corn Exchange, to enlarge and improve the present Market-place, and to effect many other improvements.

This Act also extends to the regulation of the Market, and fixes the various Tolls to be taken by the Commissioners, who purchased a few years since from the Lord of the Manor his market rights.

#### MONDAY AND SATURDAY'S MARKETS.

For public convenience two other markets are held weekly, one on Monday, the other on Saturday. They are both well stocked with provisions and numerously attended, especially that on Saturday, which in the evening is crowded to a late hour, being much frequented by work-people, who, receiving their wages at the close of the week, proceed thither to lay in part of their household supplies for Sunday and the ensuing week. In the winter evenings innumerable lights thickly studded

over the area present a scene of some novelty, especially if viewed from the foot of the declivity.

#### THE HAY AND STRAW MARKET,

Established in 1791, is held every Tuesday.—  
(See title *Smithfield*).

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#### FAIRS.

THERE are two general Fairs held here annually under authority of the Grants to the Lord of the Manor made 35th Henry III.\* and before referred to at page 15; but the times have been altered for public convenience. The first-mentioned fair is now held on Thursday in the Whitsun week; the other on the last Thursday in September. Each continues three days. The Whitsun fair, happening at a season of general holiday, is the largest and most important. The Michaelmas fair is remarkable for an abundant supply of onions, and is often called the onion fair.

\* By some mistake several of the modern published Accounts of Birmingham date the Charters for these Fairs in the reign of *Edward the Third*, though Dugdale (see *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, art. *Birmingham*) clearly expresses the date of both Charters to be as we have given them, viz. 35th *Henry III*.—The error appears to have originated in Mr. Hutton's History, and to have been continued with others from that work without further reference or investigation.

At these fairs horses are exposed for sale at the northern end of Bristol-street, hence denominated the Horse-fair.

Neat cattle, sheep, and pigs are sold in Smith-field.

Both fairs, being in high repute, are well attended, and much business is transacted at them. The holiday people are numerous, as are also the usual exhibitions for their amusement; and altogether much bustle, gaiety, and hilarity prevail on these occasions.

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## WAKES.

### DERITEND WAKE—*July.*

IN commemoration of the erection of the Chapel there about the year 1381; chiefly held in the High-street, Deritend.

### CHAPEL WAKE—*August.*

Originated in 1750, on the erection of St. Bartholomew's Chapel; chiefly held in Coleshill-street.

### BELL WAKE—*August.*

Commenced in 1751, in consequence of ten bells being hung in St. Philip's steeple; chiefly held in Navigation-street.

The foregoing are the only Wakes in Birmingham; and the celebration of these would be more honored in the breach than the observance. They afford attractions suited only to persons of the lowest and most depraved habits, and are consequently the scenes of drunkenness, dissipation, and uproar. They are generally continued several days.

Such festivities being of early origin, in celebration of the founding of churches, it is remarkable that there should have been no wake connected with the mother church of St. Martin, which, till the erection of St. Philip's, was for many centuries the only church in the town.

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#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND IMPROVEMENTS.

UNDER the above head we shall introduce a few remarks before proceeding to particularize the various objects which the town presents to our notice.

The site of Birmingham is destitute of any natural feature sufficiently strong to attract the notice of the stranger; and the inequality of the ground both in and about the town is such as to preclude any very good exterior view. The most striking and comprehensive near prospects are those from Bordesley and Highgate on the south-east and

south, the former being the entrance from London. Some distant views of the town may occasionally be seen on approaching it from various points, chiefly from south, by west, to north.

The principal approaches and entrances are those from Coventry, Warwick, and Stratford, on the south-east; from Wolverhampton, on the north; and from Worcester, on the south. The approach from Lichfield, on the north-east, is flat and uninteresting. Much improvement, however, has of late been made in most of them; and still further improvements are either intended or now in course of execution. The approach from Hales Owen, through the parish of Edgbaston, to the entrance at the Five ways turnpike gate, and from Worcester, through another part of the same parish, are pleasing from the great number and variety of comfortable villa residences which for a considerable distance present themselves in succession on each side of the road. Other approaches partake of the same character, but in a less attractive degree.

The town extends in length, from Bordesley, on the south-east, to the extremity of Great Hampton-street, on the north, rather more than two miles; and the greatest width, from Vauxhall, on the east, to the Five-ways, on the west, is very little short of the same distance. A minute and faithful delineation of the whole site appears in a large and beautifully engraved Map of the Town, just published from actual survey, by the proprietors of the present work.

The *ancient* parts of the town are *Digbeth* (formerly Cock-street or Well-street, long celebrated for its springs of the purest soft water, which still afford abundant supplies), *Edgbaston-street*, *Park-street*, *Moor-street* (or Mole-street), *the Bull-ring* (formerly Corn Cheaping), *Spiceal-street* (formerly Mercer or Spicer-street), *High-street*, *Bull-street* (or Chapel-street), and some other streets in immediate connection with the above. Their situation is on the side of a hill, with an aspect to the south-east. Very few of the old buildings now remain.

The modern portion extends around over an undulating surface in every direction, and the extension is rapidly increasing. The additions have been most considerable on the north. Many steam engines are erected, the tall and taper chimneys of which form conspicuous objects. One chimney especially, of circular construction, situate near the Crescent, far exceeds all the others in altitude.

The leading and principal streets in Birmingham are mostly of good width, and contain the better description of houses and retail shops, the latter being most numerous in *Bull-street*, *High-street*, *Digbeth*, *Snow-hill*, *Dale-end*, *New-street*, and several adjoining streets. The greater part of the best shops are situate in *High-street*, *Bull-street*, and *New-street*; the two former streets presenting an almost unbroken range of them on both sides from end to end. *Worcester-street* is occupied chiefly by furniture brokers, and *Dudley-street* and

the immediate neighbourhood is the chosen seat of the Jewish fraternity.

*New-street* is decidedly the best street in the town, and in fine weather affords an agreeable promenade. It contains many public buildings and important establishments, among which is the Post-office, at the corner of Bennet's-hill, and opposite to the Theatre. From the upper end of New-street are several lines of approach to the fine Church and spacious Church-yard of St. Philip, a visit to which the stranger should by no means omit.

Among the leading improvements effected in Birmingham during the present century may be mentioned the removal of the buildings round St. Martin's Church, and those which stood upon the present general Market-place; the widening of the western end of Moor-street, of both ends of Worcester-street, and of the lower end of Bull-street; the re-building of Deritend Bridge, and the raising of the road there; the filling up of the Moat, and the removal of the buildings to form the site of Smithfield Market-place; the forming and walling round of the spacious burial ground in Park-street; and the erection of Christ Church and the three other new Churches of St. George, St. Peter, and St. Thomas, and Trinity Chapel, Bordesley.

The western part of Temple-row and of Colmore-row, Ann-street, and the upper end of New-street, have recently undergone great alteration. In the place of mean and straggling erections, a variety

of ornamental buildings have arisen, and others are in progress. Two new streets have also been laid out over the adjoining space of ground which was inclosed by the streets just mentioned, and previously unbuilt upon. One of these new streets leading from the top of Newhall-street into New-street, opposite the Theatre, is called *Bennett's-hill*, the name which the site has long borne; the other, crossing this in a transverse direction, and leading from Temple-row to the end of Christ Church, and from thence into Ann-street, has received the name of *Waterloo-street*. They are both rapidly filling up with handsome buildings, having stuccoed or plastered fronts.

The general pavement of the town consists of round pebbles on the footpaths, and of very hard stones of basalt on the carriage-ways; but the footpaths of many of the principal streets are now laid with flag-stones, and the carriage-ways in several parts re-constructed on the McAdam principle.

Gas-lights are not only introduced for lighting the streets at night, but are very generally used in our public buildings and trading establishments; an ample supply being afforded from two gas establishments, one situate in the town, and the other at West Bromwich, about five or six miles distant.

A nightly watch is provided, which, together with the paving, lighting, and cleansing of the streets, and the regulation of hackney coaches and

cars, is under the management of a body of Commissioners acting under the authority of a local Act of Parliament.

Several attempts have been made to introduce Water-works for supplying the town with soft water by means of pipes, and in 1826 a conditional Act of Parliament was obtained for the purpose, but the scheme does not meet with encouragement from the inhabitants, who seem disposed to remain content with the supply as at present derived from the almost innumerable pumps and wells with which the town abounds.

The inn, travelling, and carrying accommodations of the town are numerous and respectable; and the different *Canals* connected with Birmingham afford the great commercial advantage of water conveyance to and from all parts of the kingdom.

#### INTENDED IMPROVEMENTS.

An Act of Parliament, in lieu of the previous Town Regulation Act, was obtained in the year 1828 for better paving, lighting, watching, cleansing, and otherwise improving the town, and for regulating the police and markets thereof. Under the additional powers of this new Act the Commissioners intend to widen and enlarge the *Market-place*, to erect a *Market-house*, a *Corn Exchange*, and *Town Hall*; the latter of which is to be for a stated time, at the service and under the controul and direction of the Committee of Governors of

the General Hospital, when required for the Musical Festival triennially held for the benefit of that institution. The Hospital Committee is also to be allowed to place an organ in the said hall, and to have access thereto at all suitable times for practice and rehearsals. The Commissioners are further empowered to enlarge and render more commodious the Public-office.

The removal of sundry projecting buildings and the widening of several of the contracted streets and passages in the town, are also contemplated by this Act; and the Commissioners intend immediately to commence this portion of their labours by widening and improving *Stafford-street*, a great thoroughfare between Aston-street and Dale-end, in immediate connection with the road to Sutton, Tamworth, and Lichfield, but hitherto dangerously narrow and incommodeous.

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#### DECAYED RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT.

THE only one in Birmingham disconnected with any existing public edifice or institution is

#### THE HOSPITAL OF SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE,\* OR PRIORY.

This edifice stood at that end of the town towards Wolverhampton, on the spot which is now

\* Mr. Hutton says in mistake that it was called the Hospital of Saint Thomas *Becket*.—The dissolved Guild of the Holy Cross

*The Square*, near the upper end of *Bull-street*, and, according to probable conjecture, was surrounded by about fourteen acres of land.

Dugdale observes, that touching the original foundation, he had not seen any further testimony than the Certificate made by the Commissioners upon the survey in 37th Henry VIII. where it is said they were informed that the ancestors of the *Birminghams*, *Lords of Birmingham*, erected it for one priest to sing mass daily therein, for the souls of the founders for ever; as also that the then late Lord of *Birmingham* (viz. *Edw. Birmingham*, Esq.) did, *inter alia*, grant the patronage of it to one *John Prettye* for 99 years, which said John passed away his title therein to *Mr. Clem. Throckmorton*, Gentleman. And the first mention of it that he (Dugdale) found, was in 13 *Edw. I.* where it appeared that *Thomas de Maidenhache* (Lord of the Manor of *Aston*), gave unto it 10 acres of heath in *Aston*, *Will. de Birmingham* 10 acres likewise, and *Ranulph de Rokeyb* 3 acres of land in *Saltley*. About that time were divers cottages and lands lying also in and about *Birmingham*, given to it by sundry others, viz. 22 acres of land and half an acre of meadow, by the same *Will. de Birmingham*, and the rest by a number of ordinary persons; for all which the *Prior* and brethren thereof obtained the king's special pardon in 4 *Edw. II.*

is mentioned in the description of the Free School, and *Clodshale's Chantry* in the account of *St. Martin's Church*.

in regard they had been given thereto after the publication of the statute of mortmain, made in 7 Edw. I.

In 24 Edw. III. *Fouk de Birmingham* and *Ric. Spenser* gave thereunto two messuages and a hundred acres of land lying in *Aston* and *Birmingham*, to find a priest to celebrate divine service daily at the altar of our Blessed Lady in the *Church* of the same Hospital, for the souls of *Will. le Mercer* and *Margery* his wife, and of certain others.

The clear yearly value of all which lands and tenements belonging thereto, was in 26 Hen. VIII. certified to be £8 5s. 3d. at which time Sir *Edw. Tofte* was Chantric Priest there; but in 37 Hen. VIII. the value, above reprises, was rated at £8 8s. 9d.\*

Dugdale gives a list, imperfectly copied into Mr. Hutton's History, of the *Patrons* and *Masters*, or *Wardens* of this Hospital, from 1326 till the time of the general dissolution of Monasteries, in the reign of Henry VIII. when this institution was extinguished, and its possessions fell a prey to the rapacity of that monarch.

Mr. Hutton states that some small remains of the old foundations of the Priory are yet visible in the cellars, chiefly on the south-east of the Square. He supposes the *Church* (or Chapel) to have stood

\* Dugdale's *Antiquities of Warwickshire*.

upon the spot No. 27, in Bull-street, and says that in the garden belonging to the *Red Bull*, No. 83, nearly opposite, human bones had been discovered, which caused some to suppose it the place of interment for the religious belonging to the Priory. Mr. Hutton, however, doubted the accuracy of this supposition, and thought that the cemetery must have extended north to the Minories, leading to the Square, for that in the premises of No. 33, Bull-street, many bushels of human bones were dug up in 1786, in great perfection, the polish of the teeth remaining. The sign of the *Bull* existed in the time of Dugdale (whence probably the name of the street), but the premises have long been converted from an inn into a shop or private residence. The numbers mentioned by Mr. Hutton are those which the houses bore at the time he wrote, and it is believed were comprised between the Minories and the Saracen's Head Inn, but the houses throughout the town having since been re-numbered, the numbers as given by him may vary from those which the same houses now bear.

We are further told by Mr. Hutton, that in 1775 he took down an old house of wood and plaster, which had stood 208 years, having been erected in 1567, thirty-one years after the dissolution of the abbeys ; that the foundation of this old house seemed to have been built chiefly with stones from the Priory, perhaps more than 20 waggon loads ; that these appeared in a variety of forms and sizes,

highly finished in the gothic taste, and complete as on the first day they were left by the chisel ; that the greatest part of them were destroyed by the workmen, but that he used some of them again in the *fire-place* of an *under-kitchen*. He further remarks that perhaps they were the only fragments remaining of that venerable edifice which once stood the monument of ancient piety, the ornament of the town, and the envy of the priest out of place.\*

Considering the antiquarian zeal of Mr. Hutton, it appears extraordinary that he should have been so careless of the Priory fragments referred to as to suffer the sweeping destruction of them just recorded ; and that the few which did escape should have been consigned to a situation so humble, and so unfitted for their future preservation, as the fire-place of an under-kitchen.

Some memorial of the Priory is preserved in the names of several of the streets which now cover the site, viz. the Minories, the Upper Priory, the Lower Priory, and St. Thomas'-street. Bull-street, according to Westley's Plan of the Town, was once called Chapel-street, doubtless from the Chapel of the Priory.

Though at the present day the denomination of *Priory* only is applied to the institution we have been describing, and no other name would now

\* Hutton's History of Birmingham.

bring it to the recollection of the inhabitants, yet it does not appear to have been a Priory in the strict acceptation of the term, and though Dugdale in one instance speaks of the *Prior* and brethren, he does not, in his list of the principals of this house, style them *Priors*, but Wardens; nor does he any where speak of the brethren belonging to any particular religious order, or of their being subject to monastic rule.

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## PLACES OF WORSHIP.

THERE are in Birmingham, comprehending the parts extending into the parish of Aston, six Churches and as many Chapels of the Establishment: in addition to which is a very considerable number of other Chapels and Meeting-houses.

## SAINT MARTIN'S CHURCH,

Commonly called the Old Church, is a large building situate on the slope at the top of Digbeth. The interior, which is in good condition, comprises a chancel, a nave and two side aisles, and wide galleries on each side and at the western end. The Church is well pewed and contains a good organ. The roof is supported by two rows of pillars, terminating in gothic arches. At the western end is

a tall and handsome, but plain spire, rising from a strong and massive tower, wherein is an excellent ring of twelve bells, with a clock and set of chimes, which play every third hour, at three, six, nine, and twelve, changing the tune every day of the week. The height of the spire from the ground is about 70 yards.

The Church is of great antiquity, but when or by whom founded cannot now be ascertained. It was built with soft red sandy stone, which becoming much decayed, the outside of the church and the tower was, about the year 1692, substantially cased with brick. The spire remains in its original state, except as it may have been occasionally altered by necessary repairs. Mr. Hutton tells us that it has been several times injured by lightning, and that 40 feet of it, in a decayed state, was taken down and rebuilt in 1781, with Attleborough stone, the spire being at the same time strengthened by a spindle of iron running up its centre, 105 feet long, secured to the side walls every ten feet by braces.

In 1786 this church underwent a thorough alteration and repair, especially in the interior; by which, and the casing of the exterior, the ancient character of the edifice has been destroyed. The windows were formerly stored with coats of arms of the distinguished families connected with Birmingham, but not a vestige of these heraldic memorials is now to be found. A few of the ancient monuments remain, especially four of very early

date, destitute of inscription, but supposed to have been erected to the memory of some of the ancient Lords of the place. They consisted of table tombs upon which lay sculptured figures of marble of the natural size. Two of these figures lay abreast, one of them is supposed by Mr. Hutton to have been of a date as early as the Conquest; the other (cross-legged, habited in a short mantle, with a sword, and bearing a shield with the bend lozenge, the ancient arms of the Birminghams) he took to be *William de Birmingham*, who was made prisoner by the French at the siege of Bellegarde, 25th Edw. I. 1297. These two figures are in a deplorable state of mutilation, and lie neglected in a hole beneath the gallery staircase. Mr. Hutton observes of them, that even Westminster Abbey, famous for departed glory, cannot produce a monument of equal antiquity. The other two, injured, but in a much less degree, are deposited in the window recesses on the southern side of the church. One is intended for a Lord of the house of Birmingham, as is evident from the arms sculptured on the vest, partly per pale indented . . . . ., the modern bearing of that house. The other, habited as a monk, is supposed to represent one of the *Marows*, Lords of Birmingham.

The church-yard is small, and, by the gradual accumulations of mortality during the progress of many centuries, has been considerably raised from its natural level. This accounts for the present low

appearance of the church, and for the entrance being now by descent, which there is no doubt was originally the reverse.

About twenty years ago, the surrounding buildings, by which the church was much obscured, were, under the powers of an Act of Parliament passed in 1807, taken down, and the site of them added to the church-yard, which is now encompassed by a substantial wall, surmounted with iron palisades. Under the same Act an *additional Burial Ground* was provided, consisting of two acres and a half of land at the upper extremity of *Park-street*, separated only by the road from St. Bartholomew's Chapel-yard. This ground is divided into two parts by a continuation of *Fazeley-street*, which passes through the middle, and each division is inclosed with substantial walls and iron palisades, and planted round with trees. The improvements round the church, and the purchase and preparation of the additional burial ground, cost between £7000 and £8000, for which an annual levy is made on the inhabitants.

The earliest Register Book preserved in this church commences in 1554.

In the vestry is a table of benefactions, and another and older one is placed within the church at the north-western entrance; affording several curious instances of the testamentary charity of former times.

The Presentation of St. Martin's was vested in

the Birmingham family till 1537, since which it has passed through the Dudleys, the Crown, the Marrows, the Smiths, and the Tennants; and the Advowson is now possessed by the Trustees of the late Thomas Hawkes, Esq.

The church is a Rectory of considerable income. The repairs of the chancel are understood to belong to the rector.

Present Rector, Rev. Thomas Moseley, A. M.  
inducted 1829.

Curate & Lecturer, Rev. J. S. Byers, A. B.

Assistant Curate, Rev. S. F. Morgan, A. M.

Since the accession of the new rector, St. Martin's church has been fitted up with gas-lights for evening service, which is now performed there every Sunday in addition to the customary morning and afternoon services.

*Clodshale's Chantry.*—*Walter de Clodshale*, of Saltley, in 4th Edw. III. (1331) by licence of the king and the chief lord of the fee, founded a *Chantry* at the altar in this church for one priest to celebrate divine service there for the souls of him the said *Walter*, and *Agnes* his wife, their ancestors, and all the faithful deceased; and endowed it with houses and lands in Birmingham: which endowment his son *Richard*, in 21st Edw. III. (1348) increased for the support of another priest to celebrate divine service at the same altar for the good estate of him the said *Richard*, and *Alice* his wife, during their lives, and for their souls after their decease; as also for the souls of his father and mother, and likewise of *Fouk de Birmingham* and

*Joan* his wife, and all the faithful deceased. These Chantries continued more than 200 years till the general dissolution of such institutions by Henry VIII. when the estates belonging to them were valued together at £11 16s. 3d. In 26 Henry VIII. *Sir Thomas Allen* and *Sir John Grene*, Priests, were Wardens of these Chantries, and probably the last.\*

*St. Martin's Parsonage*.—The Parsonage House, an ancient, half-timbered edifice, coated with plaster, coeval perhaps in its original structure with the church, stood about a furlong distant from it, in a flat situation, at the south-western extremity of Edgbaston-street, opposite to Dudley-street, on a spot which for many ages after the first erection of the building was open to the country on the south and west sides, but the extension of the town in this quarter had for some years past exposed the place to a variety of nuisances. The entrance was through a wicket in the large doors of a long range of low building next the street, once the *Tithe Barn*, which totally shut out from the passenger on that side all view of this residence, doubtless the most ancient one in Birmingham. The house was formerly encircled by a *Moat*, part of which, in a dry state, remained till the recent destruction of the building, with some willow trees, of rugged and venerable appearance, growing on its banks.

In 1825 an Act of Parliament was obtained, under the authority of which the parsonage house

\* *Dugdale's Warwickshire*.

and buildings attached, with the surrounding land, containing 7345 square yards, were, in March, 1826, sold by auction altogether for £5550. In a few months afterwards the whole of the buildings were taken down, and the land laid bare, it being intended that a new line of street and new buildings shall cover the venerable site of St. Martin's Parsonage. Another Parsonage House, situate in Bath-row, has been provided in lieu of the original one.

#### SAINT PHILIP'S CHURCH.

THE increased and increasing population of Birmingham having rendered necessary an additional Church and Church-yard, an Act of Parliament was obtained, 7th Anne, for building a *Parish Church* and *Parsonage House*, and making a *new Church-yard* and *new Parish* in Birmingham, to be called the Parish of *Saint Philip*. Hence arose this noble edifice, which was begun in 1711, consecrated on the 4th of October, 1715, but not completely finished for several years afterwards. The execution of the Act was entrusted to the direction of twenty Commissioners appointed from the neighbouring gentry by the Bishop of the Diocese; and the necessary funds were raised by voluntary contribution, aided by the gift from George the First, in 1725, of £600 towards finishing this church. The actual cost of the building does not appear to have been well ascertained.

The Church is of stone, in the Italian style of architecture, about 140 feet in extreme length, and 75 feet in extreme breadth, having at the west end a dome steeple, surmounted with a cupola; and was designed by *Thomas Archer, Esq.* a gentleman of the neighbourhood, who was one of the Commissioners appointed to superintend its erection. The building deservedly ranks high as a specimen of architectural excellence and beauty; but unfortunately the stone used in its erection, being of a flaky nature, is so rapidly yielding to the combined operations of time and weather, as to threaten the speedy defacement, if not destruction, of every jutting angle or ornament of the exterior. By way of experiment, the subbase all round the church has been restored with cement, which has now stood several years, and seems to possess a high degree of durability. Unfortunately too for the appearance of the church, it does not range with the cemetery, or any of the adjoining streets; a rigid observance of the cardinal points having placed it in a diagonal position.

There is a vaulted burial-place beneath the church, which has been the means of preserving the floor from injury. The interior consists of a nave and two side aisles, formed by two rows of fluted pillars supporting the roof. In the communion recess, at the east end, is a very handsome altar-piece, and at the west end is a fine organ, with a gallery for the choir. There is also a capa-

cious gallery over each of the side aisles. The church is well pewed, and fitted up throughout in a style of appropriate elegance ; and is capable of accommodating upwards of 2000 persons. It contains many handsome monuments, among which is one to the memory of the celebrated painter Moses Haughton.

The urns upon the parapet were not set up till about the year 1756.

The tower contains a ring of ten bells, with chimes which play every third hour, at one, four, seven, and ten, and change the tune daily.

The communion plate in this church was the gift, by will, of *Mawley Bakewell*, an apothecary of Birmingham, and was delivered to the churchwardens by his executor in 1743.

The Church-yard is spacious, occupying in the whole about four acres of ground, bordered with a double row of trees, and having walks through and around it. It is encompassed with handsome buildings, the principal of which is the *Blue Coat School House*, on the north-east, on which side also stands the *Parsonage House*, a neat and convenient brick building, erected at the same time as the church. Adjoining the parsonage house is an appropriate building erected for the *Theological Library* bequeathed by the first Rector, *William Higgs*, for the use of the clergy in Birmingham and its neighbourhood.

The right of Presentation to this church is vested

in the Bishop. The Prebend of Sawley, in the Cathedral Church of Lichfield, is annexed to this Rectory, for its better maintenance.

Present Rector, the Rev. Laurence Gardner,  
D.D. inducted 1821.

Curate, . . . . . Rev. Charles Eckersall, A.M.  
Lecturer, . . . . .

## CHRIST CHURCH.

In the year 1803, when from the great increase of the town, church accommodation was much wanted, *Isaac Hawkins Browne, Esq.* and the *Rev. Thomas Gisborne*, Executors of *Isaac Hawkins, Esq.* deceased, kindly offered a donation of £500 (which they afterwards increased to £1000) out of funds placed by the deceased at their discretionary disposal, towards the building of a *Free Church* in Birmingham. The offer was cheerfully accepted, and the proposed church resolved upon at a public meeting of the inhabitants; a subscription being immediately entered into and a committee appointed to carry the objects of the meeting into effect. The then *Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry* also proposed to annex a Prebend of the Cathedral Church of Lichfield to the income of the intended church; and *William Philips Inge, Esq.* (whose ancestor gave the site of St. Philip's) generously presented a piece of land upon which to erect it. In July, 1803, an Act of Parliament was obtained for the erection of the intended church, to be called *Christ*

*Church*, and for providing a maintenance and residence for the minister or perpetual curate thereof, the appointment of whom is vested in the Bishop of the Diocese. By this Act the *Prebend of Tachbrooke*, whenever it should become void, was conferred on the minister for the time being, in augmentation of his living.

The site fixed upon was the point of land between the top of New-street and Ann-street, facing Paradise-street, an elevated and commanding situation at the junction of six streets diverging from that spot.

The first stone was laid in due form on the 22d of July, 1805, by the late *Earl of Dartmouth*, as the representative of his late Majesty George the Third, who intended personally to have performed the ceremony, but was prevented by indisposition; and who munificently gave £1000 towards the expences of the undertaking. The Bishop of the Diocese, the Trustees appointed under the Act of Parliament, many of the neighbouring nobility and gentry, and a great concourse of the inhabitants were present on the occasion, which, from its novelty and importance, excited an extraordinary degree of interest.

A premature exhaustion of the funds caused a suspension of the work for several years, and the Trustees found it needful to obtain additional powers under another Act of Parliament procured in 1810. The church was not sufficiently finished for

*consecration* till the 6th of July, 1813, when that ceremony was performed by the late Bishop of the Diocese, and an appropriate sermon preached by the Rev. Edmund Outram, D.D. the then Rector of St. Philip's. After the consecration divine service was first performed in the church on Sunday the 18th of the same month, by the *Rev. John Hume Spry*, whom the Bishop had appointed to the living, and to whom his Lordship generously gave £100 to be applied in the purchase of bibles and prayer-books for the use of the poor members of his congregation.

The spire and portico were added in 1815. The spire was a deviation from the original design, according to which the steeple was to have terminated in a dome and cupola, in humble imitation of that of St. Philip's.

The tower contains one bell only, with a clock and four dials, put up in December, 1816.

The church is strongly built of stone, in a plain but neat style, with a projecting roof. The lofty and massive portico in front (at the western end) is supported by four Roman Doric columns. Beneath it are the three doors of entrance, to which there is an ascent of many steps from the street. The centre door leads to the galleries by a double flight of stone steps, of geometrical construction, with balustrades of elegant appearance, which, as also the railing at the altar, are formed of tubes of iron, coated with brass. The side doors lead to the area or ground floor of the church.

The whole length of the building is about 140 feet, and the width about 71 feet.

Underneath the church are Catacombs, which the Trustees were empowered to sell in aid of the building fund, and many of them have been used for interment. The ground attached to the church is of very contracted space.

The ground floor is fitted up with benches having backs and kneeling-boards, the whole of which are free. The pews in the galleries are let, and from them arises the ordinary income of the minister. The western gallery contains a fine-toned and powerful organ, by Elliott. In the communion recess is an altar-piece of carved mahogany, presented by Mr. Stock, of Bristol. Above it is painted a cross appearing in the clouds, by Barber. The galleries are fronted with mahogany, of which material the pews are constructed; and the whole interior presents a handsome and pleasing appearance.

This church will accommodate upwards of 1500 hearers, and is well attended. Service—Morning and Evening on Sunday; and on Thursday Evening also.

The Rev. Mr. Spry, who resigned in 1824, was succeeded by the present Minister, the *Rev. George Hodson*, Chaplain to the Bishop of the Diocese.

Assistant Minister, the *Rev. Thomas Burrow*.

## SAINT GEORGE'S CHURCH,

SITUATE in an airy and pleasant spot on the northern side of the town, is a new parish Church in the gothic style, from the designs of Mr. Thomas Rickman, Architect. It stands in a cemetery of considerable size, neatly walled round, with handsome entrance gates and piers of cast iron; and the principal walks are planted on each side with trees.

The first stone was laid with the accustomed ceremonies on the 19th of April, 1820, in the name of the Bishop of the Diocese, by the Local Commissioners appointed under the Acts of Parliament (58th and 59th Geo. III.) for building new Churches.

On the 30th of July, 1822, the church and church-yard were consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Chester, and on Sunday the 15th of September following, the church was opened for divine service.

The site of the church and cemetery was partly given by the joint munificence of Miss Colmore and the Marquis of Hertford, and partly purchased of the Governors of King Edward's Free Grammar School in Birmingham, out of a fund raised for the purpose by private subscription, the purchase being made under the authority of the Acts of Parliament above-mentioned.

The entire expence of the building, including the boundary wall and gates, amounting to £12,735

2s. 10d. and being upwards of £1100 less than the estimated amount, was defrayed out of the Parliamentary Grant of one Million, by the Commissioners appointed under the Act for the building of additional Churches.

The newly formed parish of St. George, attached to this church, takes an extensive range and comprises Summer-hill, Camden-street, Camden-hill, Warstone-lane, Key-hill, Hockley; part of Nelson, Frederick, Regent, Vittoria, Kenion, Livery, and Water-streets; Great Hampton, Branston, Hall, Hockley, Harford, and Barr-streets; Constitution-hill, Great Hampton-row, Henrietta, Bond, Little Hampton, Hospital, Tower, and Bearley-streets; Summer-lane, Colmore-terrace, New-town-row, Ormond, Manchester, Blews, and Brewery-streets; part of New John and Pritchit-streets; the General Hospital, Asylum, &c.

The affairs of this parish are intended to be administered by a Select Vestry appointed in perpetuity from the pew-holders and principal inhabitants of the parish, with power afterwards to fill up all vacancies in their own body, to elect one of the wardens, and assess the church levies. The parish will have a separate ecclesiastical rate, being only bound to contribute to the repairs of St. Martin's church for twenty years; and the church will be effectual for marriages and all other religious rites.

The Church consists of a western tower surmounted by an open battlement and pinnacles;

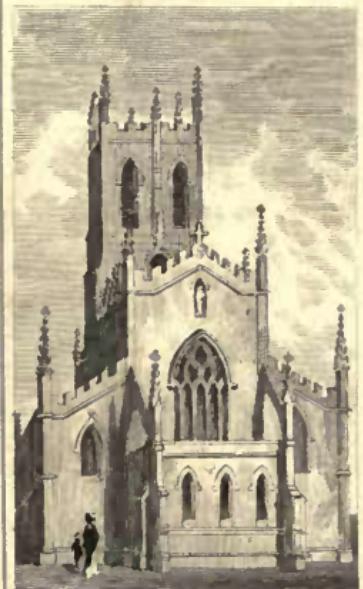
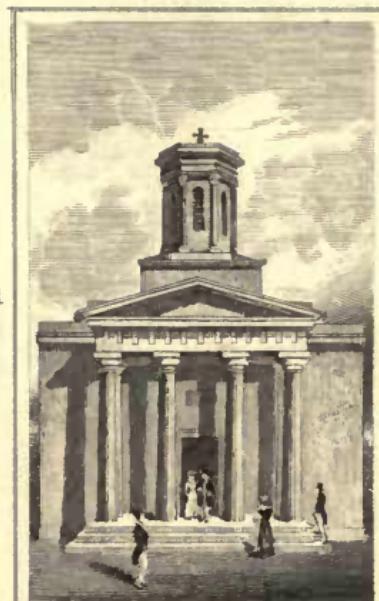
north and south porches, a nave, aisles, and chancel, and vestry eastward; the nave is divided from the aisles by richly moulded stone piers and arches, upon which rises a lofty clerestory, finished with a battlement and pinnacles. At the east end is a large window of rich flowing tracery, filled with stained glass, and underneath a highly decorated altar-piece. The galleries are supported by light iron shafts, with arches of open tracery, and the front being at some distance behind the piers, leaves the piers and arches insulated, and thus greatly enhances the beauty of the interior effect. Below the gallery, at the south-west angle, is a stone font of appropriate design.

At the western gallery, in a recess formed by the arch of the tower, stands an excellent organ, built by Elliott, the exterior designed by the architect of the church in the style of the edifice, which style is that of the gothic architecture of the reign of Edward the Third.

The interior length of the building is 98 feet, and its width 60 feet; the width of the nave being 26 feet and its height 45 feet; the height of the tower to the top of the pinnacles is 114 feet. The total number of sittings provided is 1959, of which upwards of 1400 are free and appropriated to the poor.

In the church-yard is an enriched gothic tomb, designed by Mr. Rickman, to the memory of Mr. Benjamin Nowell, of Dewsbury, in Yorkshire, one





1. ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

2. ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

3. CHRIST CHURCH.

4. ST. THOMAS' CHURCH.

of the contractors for executing the mason's work of this church, who survived but a few months the completion of his undertaking.

First and present Minister, the Rev. John Garbett, A.M.\* Assistant Minister, the Rev. T. P. Wright, A.B.

#### SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

Is one of the three new Churches erected in this town by his Majesty's Commissioners for building New Churches, and stands in Dale-end, in the parish of St. Philip, on a spot which, till appropriated for the present purpose, was closely covered with houses and other buildings, filling up the line of the street. It is in the Grecian style of architecture, from the designs of Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson, under whose superintendence it has been erected.

At the west end is a massive Doric portico of four columns, the order of which has been carefully worked from the example of the Temple of Minerva at Athens, or, as more generally designated, the Parthenon. The principal door of entrance is under the portico, with entrances on the north and south sides to the galleries.

The turret for the bell rises above the roof at the west end, and is octagonal, encircled by a colon-

\* By the Acts of Parliament referred to for building additional Churches and Chapels, the right of Presentation to those Churches and Chapels is provided for and regulated according to circumstances.

nade, the columns of which are similar to those of the Tower of the Winds at Athens.

The interior length, exclusive of the chancel and porches, is 100 feet 6 inches, the width 60 feet.— It provides sittings for 1903 persons, of which 1381 are free and set apart for the use of the poor.

It may be worthy of remark, that the masonry of the portico to this building, being executed similarly to the ancient example from which the order is taken, required stones of unusual magnitude; the lower pieces of the columns weighing upwards of seven tons, and the centre piece of architrave being upwards of 13 feet in length. These large-stones were obtained with difficulty from the quarries at Guiting, in Gloucestershire.

The first stone was laid on the 26th of July, 1825, and the church was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, and opened for divine service, on the 10th of August, 1827, a discourse being then delivered by the Bishop, and a collection made towards the erection of an organ, which has since been placed in the church.

The expence of the site and structure amounted to nearly £19,000, of which the total cost of the church was £13,087 12s. 3d. being upwards of £800 less than the estimated amount.

The Rev Anthony James Clarke, A.M. is the Minister of this church, presented by the Rector of St. Philip's.

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## SAINT THOMAS'S CHURCH.

The third new Church erected in Birmingham by his Majesty's Commissioners, out of the Parliamentary Grant, is situate at *Holloway-head*, a pleasant eminence on the south-western extremity of the town, in that division which, for ecclesiastical purposes, is denominated the parish of Saint Martin.

The first stone was laid by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese on the 2d of October, 1826, and the edifice was consecrated by his Lordship on the 22d of October, 1829, and opened for divine service on the succeeding Sunday, Oct. 25. Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson were the architects of this church, which is a large and handsome structure of the Grecian style, with two noble Ionic circular porticoes at the western end, between which rises a lofty steeple, sustained by massive piers, the arches of which are open. The doors of entrance are under the tower and porticoes.

The interior dimensions are 130 feet in length and 60 feet in width. The ceiling, 38 feet high, is coved and panneled, and enriched with flowers. The total height of the tower is 130 feet.

The number of sittings provided in this church is 2125, of which 625 are in pews; the remaining 1500 are free. The total cost of the structure was £14,222. The Church-yard (which it is hoped may yet be enlarged by an addition of some of the adjoining land) is, on account of its dry and elevated situation, peculiarly eligible for the purpose of a

cemetery. It is well inclosed with a wall and iron palisades.

The formation of a district round this church into a distinct and separate parish, is said to have been decided upon by the Commissioners.

The Rev. William Marsh, A.M. late of St. Peter's Church, Colchester, is appointed Minister.

#### SAIN T BARTHOLOMEW'S CHAPEL.

This Chapel stands on the eastern side of the town, near the upper end of Park-street, within a spacious area for interment, separated from the New Burial Ground only by the high road. It was built in the year 1749. The land was the gift of John Jennens, Esq. possessor of a considerable estate in and near Birmingham. Mrs. Jennens gave £1000, and the remainder was raised by contribution. It is a neat brick building, handsomely fitted up within, having a nave and two side aisles, with galleries, and a good organ. The altar-piece, ornamented with excellent carvings of fruit and flowers, was the gift of Basil Earl of Denbigh; and the communion-plate, consisting of 182 ounces, that of Mary Carless. At the western end is a turret, with a clock and one bell. It is remarkable that the chancel of this chapel inclines towards the north, the position of the building being thereby accommodated to the line of the street. The late Mr. Hiorne, of Warwick, is said to have been the architect. The chapel is in the parish of St. Martin, and the Rector appoints the Minister, who is the Rev. John Cooke, A. M.

## SAINT MARY'S CHAPEL.

AN Act having, in 1772, been obtained for two additional Chapels in Birmingham, this Chapel was erected in 1774, on the north-eastern extremity of the town, in Saint Martin's parish, upon land given by Dorothy and Mary Weaman, the latter of whom contributed largely towards the subscription for defraying the expences of the erection, and was allowed the right of Presentation.

The structure has a light and pleasing appearance, with the exception of the roof, which is too much exposed to view. It is built of brick; is of an octagon form, having a diminutive stone steeple on the western side, containing one bell and a clock; and stands in a very spacious cemetery, recently planted round with trees. The surrounding square contains some good houses, particularly in the upper part.

The chapel is neatly fitted up within; has a spacious gallery, with an organ; and is well attended.

Present Minister, the Rev. Edward Burn, A.M. who succeeded the first Minister, the Rev. John Riland, for whom he had long officiated.

In addition to the ordinary Sunday duty, Morning and Afternoon, there is Service at this chapel every Sunday and Wednesday Evening.

Assistant Minister, the Rev. Thomas Nunns, A.B.

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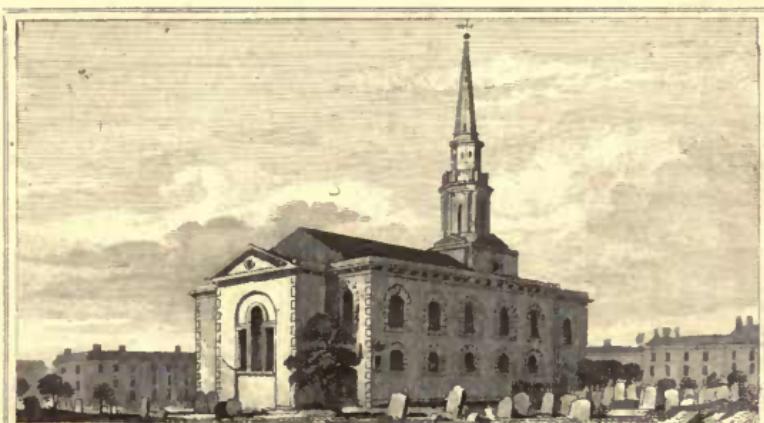
## SAINT PAUL'S CHAPEL,

SITUATE on a sandy declivity, on the north side of the town, in the parish of Saint Martin, was erected in 1779, by voluntary subscription, upon land given by Charles Colmore, Esq. and is the other (St. Mary's being one) of the two provided for by the Act of 1772. It is most substantially built of stone, in a plain, yet handsome style of architecture ; and has a steeple of great lightness and elegance, which, owing to a deficiency of funds, though part of the original design, was not added till 1823, when a subscription was raised to defray the expence it. The tower supporting the steeple contains a clock and one bell. The building is now highly ornamental to this part of the town, and stands in a cemetery of considerable size, planted round with trees, and surrounded by a square of respectable houses.

In 1791 a beautiful window of stained glass was placed over the communion-table. The subject is the Conversion of St. Paul. It is the work of that celebrated artist the late Francis Eginton, and cost 400 guineas, which was subscribed for defraying the expence of it.

In the interior, this chapel, like all the others in Birmingham, is well fitted up. It has galleries and an organ.

The right of Presentation was vested in the Colmore family ; the donor of the land (Charles Col-



1. ST PAUL'S CHAPEL.

2. ST MARY'S CHAPEL.

3. ST BARTHOLEMEW'S CHAPEL.



more, Esq.) having also liberally aided the subscription fund. The first Chaplain was the Rev. William Toy Young, who, dying in 1817, was succeeded by the present Minister, the Rev. Rann Kennedy, A.M. Assistant Minister, the Rev. W. M. Lawson, A.B.

#### SAINT JOHN'S CHAPEL, DERITEND.

THIS is a Chapel of Ease to Aston, two miles distant, and is situate in that parish. It was founded about the 4th of Richard the Second, 1381; and by an agreement in writing, dated the 13th of June, in that year, between the Prior and Monks of Tikford Priory, near Newport Pagnell, in right of their Rectory of Aston, the then Vicar of Aston, and Sir John Botetort, Knight, Founder of the said Priory, of the one part; and Sir John de Birmingham, Knight, Lord of the village or hamlet of Deritend, and several inhabitants by name, and all other the inhabitants of Deritend and Bordesley; of the other part; it was agreed, with the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese, partly in respect of the danger by floods, especially in winter time, and the distance from the Mother Church, and partly that the children of the inhabitants of the two hamlets might not want baptism in case of necessity, that the inhabitants of the said hamlets should have and find perpetually, at their own proper charges, one fit chaplain to perform divine service in a certain chapel in honour of St. John the Baptist there, within the Lordship of Deritend and Bordesley,

then lately built; also that the said inhabitants should have a font in the said chapel for baptism, and that the said chaplain should officiate in the churhing of women in the said hamlets, provided that the same inhabitants should repair to the mother church of Aston on the several days therein specified to pay tithes and oblations, as had antiquity been used: which Chaplain, in case the Vicar of Aston could not attend to it, was to visit the sick in the hamlets of Deritend and Bordesley, and confess and absolve them, and administer the sacrament, so as the said inhabitants should make confession once a year to the said Vicar of Aston or his parochial Chaplain.

In the 6th year of Richard the Second, William Geffen and others obtained the king's licence to give lands in the said parish of Aston, of the annual value of 10 marks, for finding a priest to celebrate divine worship *daily* in this chapel; but Henry the Eighth, in the year 1537, seized the estates as Chantry Lands, then valued at £13 1s. 7d. per annum, out of which two priests officiating in the said parish church of Aston had £10 per annum betwixt them.

It appears that John Mote and Edward Keye, Incumbents of St. John's Chantry, in Deritend Chapel, had a pension of £5 paid to each of them in 1553, but we have no further account respecting the chapel till 1677.

The windows contained a whole-length kneeling figure of Walter Arden, Esq. with a Latin motto

and inscription, and the arms of Lord Dudley, and of Dudley empaling Berkley of Beverston; which, as well as the original fabric, have been long since destroyed. The figure, inscriptions, and arms are engraved in Dugdale, and, according to a statement in the Gentleman's Magazine, a sketch of the building has been preserved as it is said to have stood about the year 1590.

In the year 1677, Humphry Lowe, of the city of Coventry, Esq. conveyed a messuage, called the Brick House, and lands, in the parish of Rowley Regis, county of Stafford, containing about 66 acres, and then of the annual value of £35, to various inhabitants of Deritend and Bordesley, their heirs and assigns, upon trust, out of the rents and profits thereof to provide and maintain a Chaplain for the said chapel, and when necessity should require, and no other means be had for repairing the said chapel, then to lay out and expend so much of the rent of the said estate as would be necessary for repairing thereof, and upon further trusts for disposal of the rents in case of the said chapel being vacant, and for the appointment of new trustees when the number should be reduced to three. Of the last appointment of trustees there are fifteen now living.

In 1707 the Chapel was returned to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty at £38 per annum.

The value of the above estate and of the other property belonging to this chapel is said to have been during the incumbency of the Rev. Thomas Cox,

the last incumbent but one, and who died in 1791, but little more than £100 per annum; but by the expiration of leases, and the great increase in the value of the property, the annual income, including the Rowley estate, is understood to have amounted ten years ago to about £400: since which time, namely, in 1821, an Act of Parliament was obtained to enable the trustees to demise the mines under the Rowley estate, and to lay out the money arising therefrom in lands, and to apply the rents in manner therein mentioned.

The present Minister, the Rev. Edward Palmer, succeeded the late Rev. John Darwall, who died in the year 1828, after having held this benefice thirty-seven years. The right of Presentation still continues in the inhabitants of the hamlets.

The present chapel was erected in the year 1735, and, in consequence of the prevailing taste for placing the chancel towards the east, presents a very irregular appearance in the street, its corner projecting beyond the line of the other buildings. In the year 1762 a neat square tower was added, which, in 1777, received eight very musical bells, and a clock for the accommodation of the neighbourhood.

The chapel is of brick, with stone casings to the doors and windows. There is no ground attached to it.

In 1824 it was advertised that this chapel required repairs, which could not be completed for less

than £600, and that the trustees and inhabitants had therefore opened a subscription for the purpose of effecting those repairs, the chapel, as a donative, having no claim upon the levies.

The chief authorities from which this article has been prepared are Dr. Thomas's edition of Dugdale, Hutton's History of Birmingham, and the Gentleman's Magazine for June, 1818.

#### SAINT JAMES'S CHAPEL, ASHSTED,

Was originally a dwelling house, the seat of the celebrated physician Dr. Ash (mentioned in our account of the Hospital), who built it, about 50 years ago, on a tract of land of which he took a lease from the late Sir Lister Holte, and which received from the Doctor and his residence the name of *Ashsted*. The Doctor leaving Birmingham, his property here was, about 1789, purchased by Mr. John Brooke, an attorney, who let the surrounding grounds for building upon, and converted the mansion into a chapel, a light turret being added to give a more befitting appearance to the exterior. In 1810 a piece of land for burial was attached, which, with the chapel, was consecrated on the 7th of September in that year, by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the Trustees of the chapel having acquired a permanent interest in the land by virtue of an exchange with Heneage Legge, Esq. to whom the freehold belonged.

The edifice is dedicated to Saint James, and is a

chapel of ease to the church of Aston, in which parish it is situate, on a pleasant spot between the Barracks and Vauxhall. It is elegantly fitted up, possesses an organ, and is well attended,

Minister—the Rev. Edward Burn, A.M. who succeeded the late Rev. George Croft, D.D. the previous minister here.

#### TRINITY CHAPEL, BORDESLEY.

THIS edifice, much admired for its simplicity, chasteness, and beauty, is situated in the hamlet of Bordesley, in the parish of Aston, on an eminence by the side of the road leading into the town from Oxford and Warwick, and opposite to Bradford-street. It is of brick, faced with Bath stone. The design is by Mr. Francis Goodwin, Architect, of London, and exhibits throughout, but especially at the front or western end, a rich display of the beauties of the early style of pointed architecture. In its general character it has been assimilated to King's College Chapel, Cambridge. There is no tower, but turrets are carried up at each angle, terminated by dwarf spires. The buttresses are finished with decorated pinnacles. The east end, in which the vestry and a beautiful Catherine-wheel window are prominent features, is chaste and noble. At the west end is one grand entrance to the middle aisle, and at the north-west and south-west corners two other doors leading to the galleries and



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1. TRINITY CHAPEL BORDESLEY.  
2. ST JOHN'S CHAPEL DERITEND  
3. ST JAMES'S CHAPEL ASHTED



to the body of the chapel. The frame-work and tracery of the windows are of cast iron.

A chapel yard is attached for interment, and below the eastern end of the chapel is a crypt for vaults.

On entering the interior the visitor is struck with the beauty of the large circular window, glazed with painted glass; the altar-piece, by Foggo, representing Christ healing at the Pool of Bethesda; the height of the ceiling; and the chaste yet magnificent appearance of the etched glass with which the windows are glazed. The pulpit and desk are placed just without the altar, one on each side; they are of similar form, and, as well as the pews, are of deal, painted and grained to resemble oak. There is a broad middle aisle, and two others on the north and south sides, of less space. The ceiling is in character with the exterior, judiciously ornamented with groined ribs, bosses, &c. and from its height gives an idea of air and ventilation, which the flat ceilings of the Grecian style seem to deny. Galleries, supported by cast iron pillars, representing small clustered columns, occupy the west end and north and south sides, in the first of which is a beautiful gothic organ designed by the same architect.

The body of the chapel contains pews let to the inhabitants. The galleries are entirely free. At the upper end of the middle aisle stands a richly ornamented gothic font, of imitation stone. The

other part of the aisle contains seats for the infirm. The total number of sittings provided for, including 152 for children, is 1821. The length of the building externally is 135 feet 7 inches, its breadth 75 feet 10 inches; internally, 90 feet long by 60 wide. The height of the ceiling 45 feet, of the corner turrets 83 feet 8 inches. The depth of the north and south galleries 15 feet.

The expences of erection were defrayed by his Majesty's Commissioners for building New Churches to the amount of £14,235. The site of the chapel, the chapel-yard, and a respectable residence for the clergyman adjoining, were purchased by the voluntary subscriptions of persons in the neighbourhood, aided by the liberal assistance of several of the nobility and gentry applied to on the occasion. The amount of subscription raised and paid exceeded £3000, but it proved insufficient to defray the whole of the expenditure incurred by the local committee in the above purchases, and in the extra works necessary to the completion of their undertaking.

The ceremonial stone was laid by the Right Honourable Other Earl of Plymouth, accompanied by the Earls of Dartmouth and Aylesford, on the 29th day of September, 1820; and the chapel was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Chester (officiating for the Lord Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry), on the 23d day of January, 1823. It is dedicated to the Holy Trinity.

The chapel is well attended under the ministry of the Rev. Samuel Crane, B.A. who was presented to the perpetual curacy on the nomination of the late Dr. Spencer, Vicar of Aston, and is the first incumbent.

For this article we are chiefly indebted to an authentic account of the chapel published, with a north-west view of it, in the Gentleman's Magazine for September, 1827. A good south view has been also engraved.

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THE Churches and Chapels of the Establishment being described, we next proceed to notice the several other places of worship in the town.

#### THE JEWS' SYNAGOGUE

Is situate in *Severn-street*, near to the Lancastrian School, and was re-built on an enlarged scale in 1827. The original building in *Severn-street*, erected about twenty years ago, superseded a smaller synagogue in the Froggery.

The number of Jews resident in Birmingham is perhaps not more than 250; but many itinerant traders of this race occasionally visit us.

They have two *places of burial* at the edge of the town. The original one, near the basin of the Worcester Canal; now disused. The other near to

Islington, appropriated to the purpose about five years ago, with a suitable building attached.

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPELS.

THE number of individuals of this persuasion now in Birmingham is inconsiderable, compared with the whole population of the town. Formerly this class of persons had a place of public worship on a spot near Saint Bartholomew's Chapel, still called Masshouse-lane. This, it is understood, was destroyed at the Revolution of 1688, and there was no public chapel for their accommodation nearer than Edgbaston, about two miles distant, till 1789, when a very neat one was erected at *Easy-hill*, near to *Broad-street*, and dedicated to *Saint Peter*. This has been since considerably improved, and contains a handsome painted altar-piece, and an organ.

A smaller Chapel has been erected in *Shadwell-street*, near *Bath-street*, dedicated to *Saint Chad*, and was opened in 1813, by the late Rev. Dr. Milner. This also contains an organ, built by Mr. Mott, late of this town.

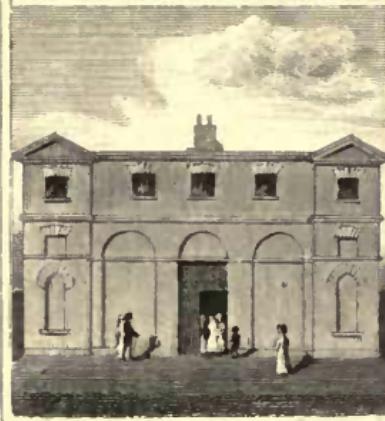
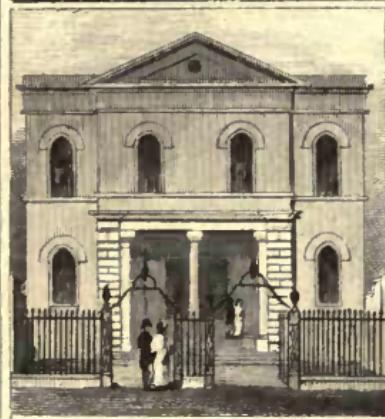
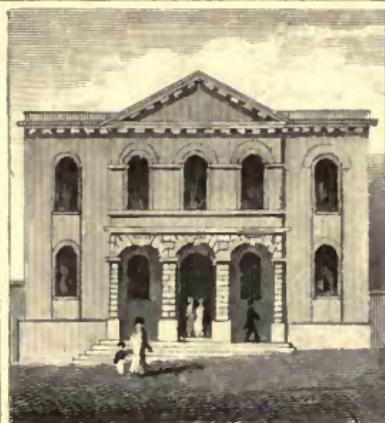
Priest of St. Peter's, Rev. T. M. M'Donnell.

Priest of St. Chad's, Rev. E. Peach.

#### THE MEETING HOUSE OF THE QUAKERS, OR SOCIETY OF FRIENDS,

Is a plain and substantial building, of respectable appearance, in the upper part of *Bull-street*,





1. OLD MEETING HOUSE.

4. NEW MEETING HOUSE.

2. CANNON STREET MEETING HOUSE.

5. NEW HALL STREET MEETING HOUSE.

3. LIVERY STREET MEETING HOUSE.

6. BELMONT ROW MEETING HOUSE.

neatly and appropriately fitted up within for the accommodation of its very worthy and unassuming congregation.

At the back is a spacious *cemetery*, quite obscured by surrounding buildings from public view; and there is another smaller one in Monmouth-street.

The number of Quakers in Birmingham is not very considerable; nor does it appear to increase.

## OLD MEETING HOUSE.

*Unitarians.*

This handsome and substantial brick building, situate in and giving name to *Old Meeting-street*, rose, on an enlarged scale, upon the site of the previous meeting house erected there in the reign of William the Third, and burnt down at the riots in 1791. It will accommodate a large congregation, is well fitted up, and contains an organ.

The original place of worship of the Dissenters was at the bottom of Digbeth, on a spot which yet bears the name of Meeting House Yard. It went into disuse about the year 1730, on the erection of another meeting house, called, and which still retains the name of the New Meeting.

A commodious range of *School Rooms* is attached, for the use of the children belonging to the society.

At the back is a *Cemetery*, quite obscured from public view.

Minister, the Rev. Hugh Hutton.

## THE NEW MEETING HOUSE.

*Unitarians.*

Is a stone-fronted edifice, possessing considerable architectural beauty, situate at the bottom of *New Meeting-street*, and fronting to *Moor-street*, from whence it is seen to advantage, there being a considerable area in front of the building, which is elevated above the natural level of the ground, and approached by a bold flight of steps. The interior is neat and commodious, and provided with an organ.

The present edifice stands on the site of a former one, erected in 1730 (when that in *Digbeth* went into disuse), and which, like the Old Meeting House, was destroyed at the riots in 1791, at which time the celebrated Dr. Priestley was pastor of the New Meeting Society.

Adjoining the meeting house is a lofty pile of building built and used by this society for *Sunday Schools*, in which a great number of children, both girls and boys, receive instruction.

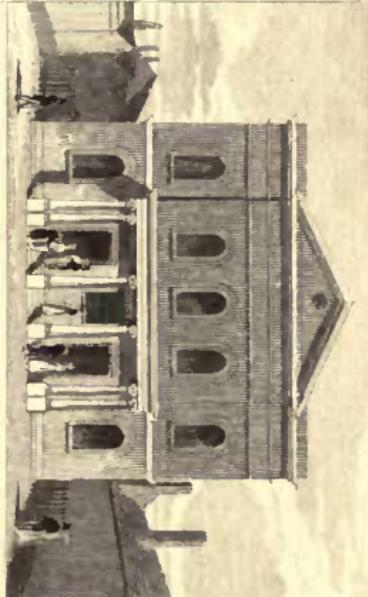
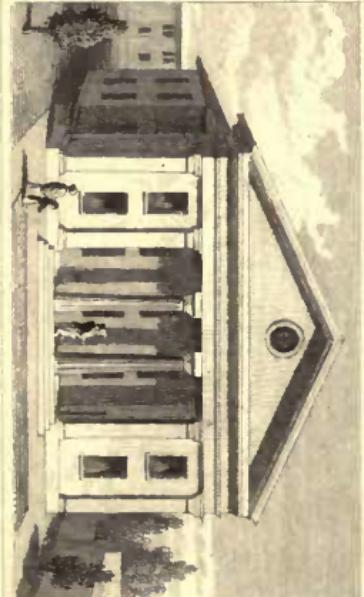
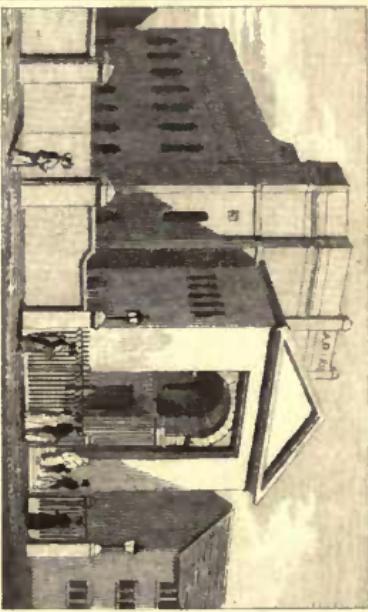
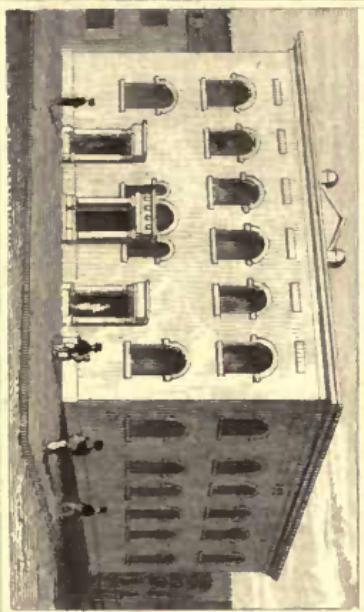
Minister, the Rev. John Kentish.

## CARR'S LANE MEETING HOUSE.

*Independents.*

THIS edifice belongs to the congregation of Independent Dissenters under the ministry of the Rev. *John Angell James*. It is the third place of worship erected by this denomination of dissenters,

1. CARRS LANE MEETING HOUSE.  
2. CHERRY STREET MEETING HOUSE.  
3. EBENEZER MEETING HOUSE.  
4. MOUNIC ZION CHAPEL.

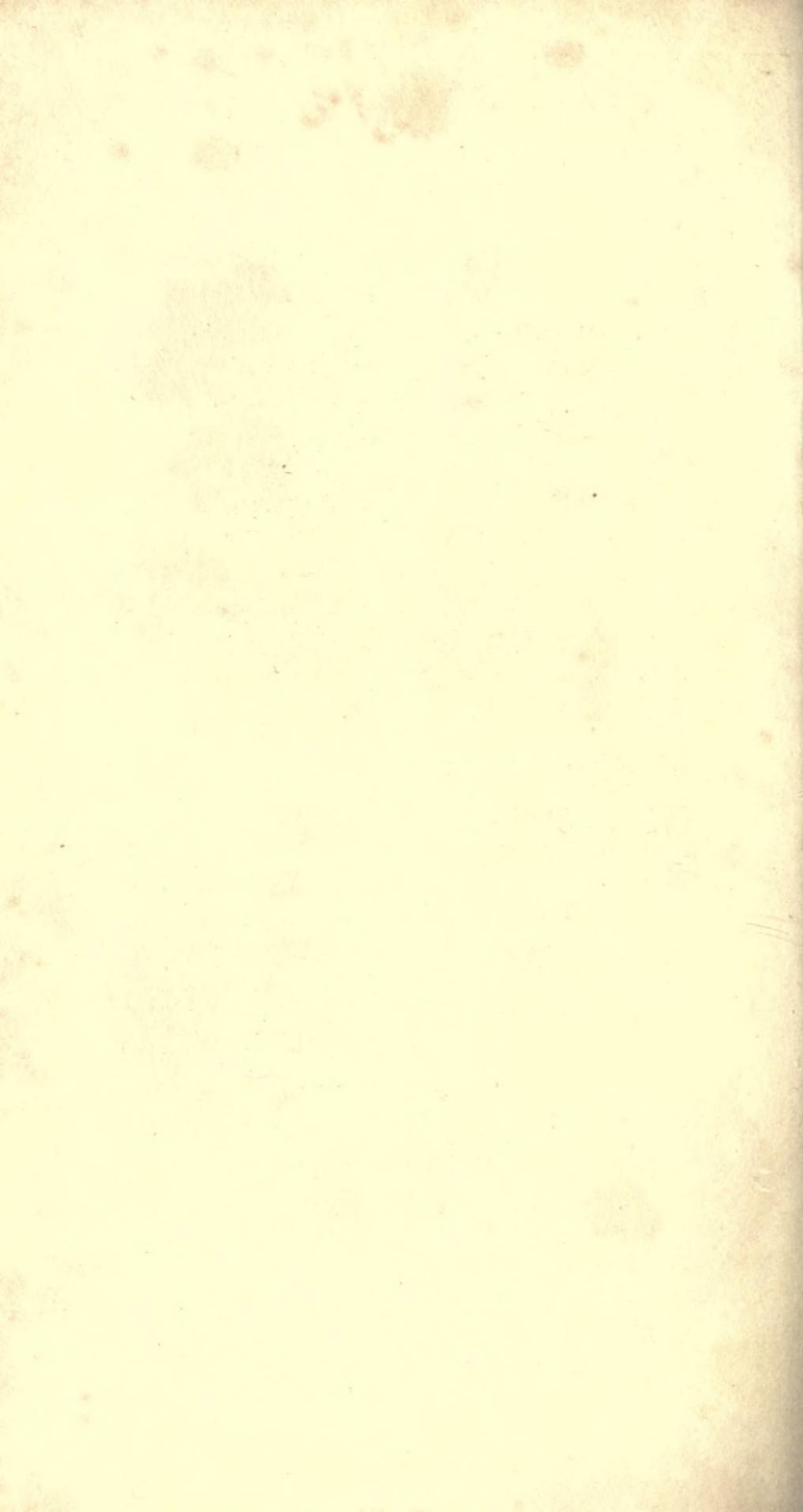


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originally a scion of the Old Meeting Society, on partly the same site, within the space of seventy-two years. The first was finished in the year 1748, and contained 450 persons. The second was opened in the year 1802, and contained 800 hearers. The third and present building, designed by Mr. Whitwell, Architect, was commenced in July, 1819, and opened for divine service in August, 1820. It is capable of containing a congregation of 2100 persons, and there are about 350 free seats. The interior is fitted up in a very superior manner, but externally the edifice appears too plain and massive for so confined a situation.

## LIVERY-STREET MEETING HOUSE.

*Independents.*

THIS was formerly an amphitheatre, or circus for equestrian performances, and became appropriated to devotional purposes on the destruction of the Old and New Meeting Houses in the riots of 1791, the societies from which occupied this building under the denomination of the Union Meeting, till their own meeting houses were re-erected, since which time it has been occupied by a branch from the society in Carr's-lane, and was for many years under the very successful ministry of the late Rev. Jehoiada Brewer, who died in 1817, while a larger meeting house, called Ebenezer Chapel, was being erected for him and his congregation, in Steelhouse-lane.

A portion of Mr. Brewer's Congregation still remain in Livery-street.

This meeting house was repaired and improved in 1825.

#### EBENEZER MEETING HOUSE.

*Independents.*

SITUATE in Steelhouse-lane, was opened for public worship December the 9th, 1818, the first stone having been laid on the 4th of June, 1816, by the Rev. Jehoiada Brewer, of Livery-street Meeting House, who died before the completion of the work, and was buried here, and to whose memory a monument is set up in the front area. This edifice is large and substantial, has a handsome front, and possesses the unusual advantage of being placed sufficiently back from the line of the street. It contains upwards of 1200 sittings, of which 150 are free; besides accommodation for between 300 and 400 children belonging to its Sunday Schools.

Minister, the Rev. Timothy East.

The commodious School-room attached to this meeting house is also used by the Mechanics' Institution for their lectures and meetings.

#### BAPTIST MEETING HOUSES.

*Particular Baptists.*

*Cannon-street.*—The principal Meeting House of this Society is in Cannon-street, and was founded

in 1738. It was enlarged in 1780, and in 1806 re-built and further enlarged. The present erection is commodious, handsome, and substantial, and adapted for a large congregation.

Minister, the Rev. T. Swan.

At the back is a School-room for the youth of this society.

A branch of the Baptist flock formerly had a meeting house in Freeman-street, which was abandoned in 1752, when the congregation from thence united itself to that in Cannon-street.

*Bond-street*.—A smaller Meeting House.—Minister, Rev. T. Morgan.

*Newhall-street*.—A third Meeting House, of good appearance, situate near to Lionel-street, and falling back from the line of the street.—Minister, Rev. J. Poole.

*Mount Zion*.—A fourth, but not the least important of the Baptist Meeting Houses, is that called *Mount Zion*, which was built in 1823, and stands on *Newhall-hill*, also called *Harper's-hill*. It is a handsome octagon structure, with lofty Doric portico. The interior is commodiously arranged, and elegantly fitted up, capable of containing a congregation of upwards of 2,500 persons. There is a powerful organ, and attached to the building are extensive vaults, a burial ground, vestries, school-rooms for 500 children (one of which is adapted for a lecture-room) a dwelling house for the sexton, and all convenient offices.

The whole was the undertaking of a private individual, who ruined himself by the speculation.

Being first taken for the members of the Scotch Church, this edifice, under the denomination of *Mount Zion Chapel*, was opened for public worship with great eclat on the 24th of March, 1824, when an inaugural discourse was delivered by the Rev. Edward Irving, then in the zenith of his fame and popularity.

Owing to some disagreement with the proprietor, the original congregation did not long continue in the occupation of the building, but removed to another edifice since erected for them at the lower end of Newhall-street.

After lying void for a considerable time, the whole premises were purchased for the Baptist congregation by which they are now occupied.

Minister, the Rev. T. Thonger.

#### GENERAL BAPTISTS.

*Lombard-street*.—This portion of the Baptist Society has a Meeting House in Lombard-street, Deritend.

Minister, the Rev. G. Cheatle.

#### METHODIST MEETING HOUSES.

Of these the town contains a considerable number. The principal one, situate in *Cherry-street*, was erected in 1782, and opened by the celebrated

John Wesley. This was taken down in 1823, when the present enlarged edifice was erected on its site.

According to Mr. Hutton, after the institution of this sect by George Whitfield, in 1738, the methodists of Birmingham were first covered by the heavens; afterwards they occupied for many years a place in Steelhouse-lane, from whence they removed to a cast-off theatre in Moor-street, where they continued till the meeting house in Cherry-street was provided for their reception.

The principal other Meeting Houses of the *Wesleyan* Methodists in Birmingham, are as under:—

Belmont-row.

Bradford-street.

Islington.

Constitution-hill, a large newly erected building, opened July, 1828.

There is another Chapel in *Oxford-street* belonging to the *New Connexion* of Methodists.

#### LADY HUNTINGDON'S CONNEXION.

This Society has a Meeting House in *King-street* a narrow street leading out of *New-street* on the south. The building, originally erected for a theatre about the year 1752, was appropriated to the purposes of the drama till about the year 1786, when, in consequence of the erection of the superior Theatre in *New-street*, the old one was converted into, and has ever since continued to be, a place of worship.

## CALVINISTS.

This persuasion of dissenters have a Meeting House in *Bartholomew-street*, which they denominate the *Cave of Adullam*; and they have or lately had another in *Newhall-street*, called *Rehoboth Chapel*.

## SWEDENBORGIANS.

This Society, followers of the religious tenets of the Hon. *Emanuel Swedenborg*, have for many years had a small place of worship opposite to the Coal Wharf, in *Newhall-street*, called the *New Jerusalem Temple*.

## SCOTTISH CHURCH.

The members of this community, on quitting Mount Zion Chapel in 1825, procured the erection of another place of worship (dedicated to St. Andrew), which they now occupy. It is a handsome building, situate at the northern extremity of *Newhall-street*, on a corner piece of land, which, till applied for the present purpose, was a rubbish-hole, many feet below the level of the adjoining streets. A range of arches support the floor of the edifice, and afford useful vaults beneath.

## CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

## GENERAL HOSPITAL

*For the Relief of Sick and Lame Poor.*

THIS excellent Institution was founded and is supported by the donations and subscriptions of

the benevolent. The noble brick edifice which it occupies was commenced in 1766, but the undertaking lay dormant for want of funds till 1778, when a successful canvass was made for further donations, and in the next year the Hospital was finished and opened for the reception of patients. The two wings were added in 1791, since which time some further additions have been made. The building is situate on the northern side of the town, on a spot now unfortunately subject to considerable annoyance from the steam engines and manufactorys erected in the neighbourhood.

The institution is under the management of a general quarterly and a chosen weekly Board of Governors, the former of which has the power of regulating the laws, and of electing and removing the officers and servants of the establishment. There are four physicians and four surgeons appointed, who render their services gratuitously, and twelve visitors, two of whom visit the house every week, and make a report of its state to the board. A clergyman of the established church also attends as chaplain. A house surgeon and apothecary, a matron and steward are resident at the Hospital.

In the last year, from Midsummer, 1827, to Midsummer, 1828, the numbers of patients were,—

In-patients .. .. .. ..	1571
Out-patients (including children vaccinated) ..	2721
	4292
Remaining at Midsummer, 1827, 100 In-pa- } tients and 328 Out-patients ... .. }	428
	4720

of these 2845 were cured, 478 relieved, 60 died, and 608 were children inoculated for the cow-pock.

The subscriptions for the same year amounted to £1971, a sum which, without further aid, is quite inadequate to the annual expenditure of the establishment, owing to the great number of cases of accident, which are admitted without a subscriber's recommendation; and this great deficiency has been provided by the Musical Festivals, legacies, and donations.

Sick patients are received, on the recommendation of subscribers, at the weekly board every Friday; but cases of accident are admissible at all times without any recommendation.

In its origin this institution was much indebted to an eminent physician of the town, *Dr. John Ash*, whose portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds, is placed in the board-room of the Hospital, which also contains another portrait, by T. Phillips, R.A. of the late *Mr. George Freer*, one of the surgeons of the institution, and a man of great professional eminence.

The Hospital also contains a bust of our worthy townsman *William Rolfe, Esq.* a most liberal contributor to its funds.

To these works of art it is intended to add a bust of the late *Charles Lloyd, Esq.* as a memento of gratitude for the invaluable services rendered to the Hospital by this worthy character, first, in the in-

stitution and establishment of the Charity, and, secondly, in his constant support and patronage of it until his death, in January, 1828.

The late *Lord Dudley and Ward* for many years, till his death, gave to this Hospital his mine right in the coal there consumed; which generous act is continued by his son and successor, the present *Earl*.

The *Humane Society* established in the town for the recovery of persons apparently drowned, or otherwise in a state of suspended animation, has been for many years attached to the General Hospital, where printed directions to be observed in such cases may be had gratis.

The principal Officers of this Institution in the present year (1829) are—

*Physicians.*

Dr. John Johnstone,  
Dr. Geo. Edward Male,  
Dr. John K. Booth,  
Dr. G. De Lys.

*Surgeons.*

Mr. Richard Wood,  
Mr. Bowyer Vaux,  
Mr. Joseph Hodgson,  
Mr. Alfred Jukes.

*House Surgeon and Apothecary*—Mr. Frederick Jukes.

*Matron*—Mrs. Caroline Hawkes.

*Chaplain*—the Rev. S. F. Morgan.

*Secretary, House Steward, and Collector*—Mr. John Underhill.

*Treasurers*—Messrs. Taylors and Lloyds, Bankers, Birmingham.

## GRAND MUSICAL FESTIVALS,

*For the Benefit of the General Hospital.*

In September, 1778, a Musical Festival, the performances consisting of selections of sacred music, was held at St. Philip's Church, and continued three days, in aid of St. Paul's Chapel and the Hospital jointly, and which produced to the funds of the latter institution £127. Since that time, except in 1793, when the national distress and the burning of the Theatre prevented it, a like Festival has been held *triennially*, in aid of the funds of the Hospital, with such increased attraction and success as to produce for that Charity, in the year 1823, a clear surplus of £5806 12s. 6d. the gross receipts being £11,115 9s. 9d. On the last occasion, in 1826, the gross receipts were reduced to £10,104 2s. 11d. and the net profits to £4,592 3s. 11d., a circumstance attributable in some degree to accidental causes, but chiefly to the severe financial embarrassments and distress which the nation experienced in that year, and which more or less affected all classes of the community.

A rare and splendid combination of the first musical talent in the kingdom is provided at these Festivals, which have, since the year 1796, been principally arranged and directed by our townsman, Mr. Joseph Moore, whose able and judicious management has raised them from the state of respect-

able county meetings to an almost unrivalled degree of national grandeur and celebrity.

In April, 1812, a number of subscribers and friends to the Hospital, in testimony of the high sense which they entertained of the valuable and disinterested services then rendered by Mr. Moore to that excellent institution in the management of the Festivals, presented him with a splendid silver Vase and Stand, and four silver Dishes, with Covers, bearing a suitable inscription.

Subjoined will be found a statement of the profits of each celebration since the original performance in 1778 :—

1778	....	Profit £127
1781	....	— 140
1784	....	— 703
1787	....	— 964
1790	....	— 958
1793	(no Meeting).	
1796	....	— 897
1799	....	— 1470
1802	....	— 2380
1805	....	— 2202
1808	....	— 3257
1811	....	— 3629
1814	....	— 3131
1817	....	— 4296
1820	....	— 5001
1823	....	— 5806
1826	....	— 4592
		—
		£39553

The most ample accommodations of every kind are provided for visitors who honour these Festivals with their presence.

## THE DISPENSARY.

Another institution which does honour to humanity, and is supported by donations and annual subscriptions, with the aid of occasional bequests, was established in 1794, for the purpose of administering medical relief to sick and midwifery patients of the poorer class, at their respective homes. Such patients, however, whose disorders do not confine them at home, are required to attend at the Dispensary, which is a handsome stone-fronted building, in Union-street, completed in 1808. Over the principal entrance is a sculptured emblematic design, in relief, executed by W. Hollins, inscribed, "*Of the Most High cometh healing.*" It is necessary for persons seeking relief to obtain a letter of recommendation from a subscriber.

The institution is under the management of a committee of governors, and receives the gratuitous aid of three physicians and six surgeons. There are also two resident surgeons, a dispensing apothecary, and midwife.

In the year ending September 29, 1828, the number of patients who received medical relief was 4343, of which number 3545 were sick, and 798 midwifery patients. In the same period 1614 underwent vaccine inoculation.

The expenditure of the same year was £1651.

Another instance of the kindness of the *Earl of Dudley* appears in the gift to this Charity of his mine right in the coal used at the Dispensary.

<i>Physicians.</i>	<i>Surgeons.</i>
Dr. John Eccles,	Mr. J. S. Blount,
Dr. John Darwall,	Mr. J. T. Ingleby,
Dr. J. Birt Davies.	Mr. J. M. Baynham,
	Mr. W. S. Cox,
	Mr. M. N. Shipton,
	Mr. Charles Covey.

*Resident Surgeons*—Mr. Thomas Taylor and Mr. John Heath.

*Dispensing Apothecary*—Mr. R. H. Tompson.

*Midwife*—Mrs. Elizabeth Maurice.

## SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARY.

A leading feature of this institution, which commenced in the spring of 1828, is to supply the provident and industrious of the labouring classes, who may be unable to pay a surgeon adequately for his services, and yet unwilling to resort to gratuitous assistance, with medical and surgical relief, for the payment of a small subscription; thereby encouraging the spirit of independence, and in some degree removing the necessity for reliance on charitable or parochial aid.

Another, and perhaps not less important object, is the extension of gratuitous aid, by the subscriptions of the opulent and benevolent, to such necessitous poor as are unable to contribute any sum, however small, for themselves, and are excluded by distance from the benefits of other charities.

Patients are allowed to choose any of the surgeons of the institution ; and the surgeons supply their respective patients with medicines, whereby the expence of an establishment is avoided.

The Surgeons of the institution are—

Mr. Sanders, Islington-row ;

Mr. Covey, New-street ;

Mr. Freer, Old-square ;

Mr. Green, Newhall-street.

#### HOUSE OF RECOVERY, OR FEVER HOSPITAL.

This institution was established in 1828, at a meeting of subscribers whose attention had been drawn to a consideration of the subject chiefly by the zealous exertions of Dr. Birt Davies, who is appointed physician to the establishment, which, we doubt not, will receive the support of the humane and charitable in a degree equal to its importance and utility.

The committee has taken a house for the reception of patients, situate at the corner of Bishop-gate-street, and fronting to Holloway-head, which, from its being entirely detached from other habitations, erected in a spacious garden, in a complete state of repair, and possessing many local advantages, is considered to be particularly well adapted for the purposes of the institution.

GENERAL INSTITUTION FOR THE RELIEF OF  
PERSONS LABOURING UNDER BODILY  
DEFORMITY.

This charitable institution, for the relief of those unfortunate persons suffering under infirmities produced by various distortions of the limbs, and by herniary complaints, was commenced in 1817, and is supported by the donations and annual subscriptions of its friends.

The rooms of the institution are in New-street, where, on application to Mr. Shipton, Surgeon, proper medical and surgical attention is given to patients recommended by the subscribers.

INFIRMARY FOR DISEASES OF THE EYE.

This institution was established at No. 35, Cannon-street, in the beginning of 1824, by voluntary subscription, and has proved extensively useful to that class of sufferers who are the peculiar objects of its benevolent aid.

According to advertisement, patients are received as above on Tuesdays and Saturdays, at one o'clock.

THE GUILD OF THE HOLY CROSS, NOW THE FREE  
SCHOOL, IN NEW-STREET.

THIS was another religious establishment which, like that called the Priory, was dissolved, its reve-

nues being also sequestered, on the general dissolution of religious houses by Henry the Eighth.

The origin of this guild, as related by Dugdale, was as follows :—In the 6th of Richard II. (1383), *Thomas de Sheldon* and three others, having obtained licence to grant lands of the annual value of twenty marks lying in *Birmingham* and *Edgbaston*, for the maintenance of two priests to celebrate divine service daily, to the honour of God, our blessed Lady his Mother, the Holy Cross, St. Thomas the Martyr, and St. Catherine, in the *Church of St. Martin* here at *Birmingham*, within ten years after, the inhabitants of this town, by the name of the Bailiffs and Commonalty of Birmingham, procured a patent from the same king to found a *Guild*, or perpetual fraternity among themselves, to the honour of the *Holy Cross*, consisting not only of men and women of Birmingham, but of other adjacent places; and to constitute a master, with certain wardens thereof; as also to erect a *Chantry* of Priests to celebrate divine service in the said church for the souls of the founders and all the fraternity, for whose support, and all other charges incumbent, there were eighteen messuages, three tofts, six acres of land, and forty shillings rent, lying in *Birmingham* and *Edgbaston*, then given thereto. The possessions of this guild were in 37 Henry VIII. (1546) valued at £31 2s. 10d. out of which three priests that sung mass in the church here had £5 6s. 8d. a piece, an organist £3 13s.

4d., the common midwife 4s. per annum, and the bellman 6s. 8d., besides other reprizes.

These possessions, or the greater part thereof, at the humble petition of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, were by letters patent dated 2d of January, 5 Edw. VI. (1552) granted by that king unto *William Symons*, gentleman, *Richard Smalbroke*, then *Bailiff* of the town, and eighteen others, inhabitants of Birmingham, and to their successors to be chosen from time to time by the surviving or continuing members upon the death or departure out of the town, parish, and manor of any of the body, for the support and maintenance of a Free Grammar School in Birmingham, to be called the *Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth*, for the education of Boys and Youths in Grammar for ever; with one head-master, and one under-master or usher. The same possessions (then stated to be of the clear yearly value of £21) to continue unto the said grantees and their successors for ever, to be held of the said king, his heirs and successors, as of his Castle of *Kenilworth*, by fealty only, in free socage, paying thereout twenty shillings yearly into the Court of Augmentations, at Michaelmas, for all rents, services, and demands whatsoever.\*

By these letters patent the grantees and their successors were created a body corporate and poli-

\* The School Estates are now free from this annual payment, which was purchased by the Governors in 1810.

tic of themselves, in perpetuity, by the name of the *Governors of the Possessions, Revenues, and Goods of the Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth, in Birmingham, in the county of Warwick*; such Governors to have a *Common Seal*, and by their corporate name to plead and be impleaded in all actions and suits touching the premises, also to have the appointment from time to time of the head-master and under-master of the school, and power, with the advice of the Bishop of the Diocese for the time being, to make fit and wholesome statutes and ordinances, in writing, concerning the government of the school, the stipend of the masters, and the preservation and disposition of the revenues. The number of Governors is by the above charter fixed at twenty, who, in the words of that document, are to be men of the more discreet and more trusty inhabitants of the town and parish of Birmingham aforesaid, or of the manor of Birmingham, to the same town adjoining.

Several statutes and orders have at different times been made by the governors, and confirmed by the bishop, for the government of the school, and the appropriation of its increasing funds, which, in addition to the original establishment, devoted chiefly to classical instruction, lately supported several *subsidiary English schools* in different parts of the town for the gratuitous instruction of poor children in reading and writing, of which that in *Shut-lane* (probably the oldest) is the only one now

remaining. There are ten exhibitions from this School of £35 per annum each, tenable for seven years, at any college in either of the Universities.\*

The ancient *Hall* of the *Guild* became the *School Room*. An engraving in Dugdale shews that in the glass of the windows was painted the figure of *Edmund Lord Ferrers*, with his arms, empaling *Belknap*; also those of *Stafford of Grafton*, of *Birmingham*, and of *Perrot* empaling *Brian*, all probably benefactors to the guild. The above Edmund Lord Ferrers (of Chartley) more than 400 years ago (2 Henry VI.) married *Elena de Roche*, a granddaughter of *Sir Thomas de Birmingham*, an event to which we may attribute his connection with the guild.

The first erection, of wood and plaster, which had stood about 320 years, and was originally on the outside of the town, was taken down in 1707, when the present building arose on the site. It is in *New-street*, at the lower end, nearly adjoining to the *Hen and Chickens Hotel*, and occupies three sides of a quadrangle, of which the line of street forms the fourth. The style is heavy, and the area wears a gloomy aspect. In the centre of the building is a tower, which was ornamented with a sta-

\* John Milward, Gentleman, of Haverfordwest, a native of Birmingham, by his will, dated in 1654, founded a Scholarship at *Brazennose College, Oxford*, to be held alternately by a Scholar from this School at Birmingham, and from that at Haverfordwest. He also made a further bequest in aid of the income of the said Schools.

tue of King Edward the Sixth, dressed in a royal mantle, with the ensigns of the garter, and holding a bible and sceptre, having beneath it this inscription, now remaining :—“ Edvardus sextus “ Scholam hanc fundavit anno Regni quinto.” This tower contains a clock and bell.

In 1824 it was found necessary to take down the statue of the royal founder from the niche of the tower, a portion of it having, from decay, fallen into the front area. The vases on the balustrades (set up in 1756) being also in a very perished state, were, for the prevention of accidents, at the same time removed. Very recently the cupola and vane with which the tower was surmounted have also been taken down.

Besides the school rooms, this edifice contains within its walls the *residences* of the *head-master* and *under-master*; but the whole fabric is now so much decayed, that it is considered necessary either to rebuild it, or to erect other suitable buildings in lieu of it in another and more eligible situation.

The annual value of the School Estates, estimated in the charter at £21, is now, it is believed, increased to more than £3,000, with a prospect of still further improvement on the termination of existing leases. The whole of these estates lie in the parish of Birmingham, and are exonerated from land-tax, which the governors purchased in the year 1800.

From the dilapidated state of the school building and houses, and also from the increasing state of

the funds, the governors, a few years ago, made some progress in an application to parliament for power to erect new buildings, and further to extend the utility of the institution. It was proposed to accomplish the building purposes by *borrowing* money on mortgage of the school estates, and it was understood to be the intention of the governors to erect the new school on some spot without the limits of the town. The creation of a large debt, and the projected removal of the school from its present central to a suburban situation, were parts of the scheme which met with much opposition from the inhabitants, and it was rumoured that the Bishop of the Diocese, and a considerable minority of the governors, were opposed to the principle of the bill, which was eventually abandoned. Some doubt also arose whether an act of parliament could be obtained for *all* the intended purposes without the previous approbation of the Court of Chancery.

The *Parliamentary Commissioners* for investigating the Public Charities throughout the country have already commenced their duties with respect to this School; and we sincerely hope that from their visitation and report some satisfactory scheme may result for its improvement.

This School being of royal foundation, the Lord Chancellor, in right of his Majesty, is the ordinary visitor thereof.

Towards the close of the reign of King Charles the Second, some of the governors, in opposition

to their brethren, *surrendered the charter* of the school into the hands of the king; and a new charter was soon after granted by King James the Second, his successor, dated the 20th of February, 1685. The ejected governors, however, immediately commenced a suit in Chancery for the recovery of the *original charter*; and six years after obtained a decree re-instanting them in their functions, annulling the charter of James the Second, and restoring and confirming that of King Edward the Sixth.

In 1723 a Commission issued under the Great Seal to inspect the conduct of the governors, who disputing its validity, the matter was heard in Hilary Term, 1725, when the governors objected to this commission that the king, having appointed *governors*, had by implication made them *visitors* also, and that consequently the crown could not issue out a commission to visit or inspect the conduct of these governors. The court however resolved that the commission under the great seal was well issued in this case.

During these intemperate proceedings, the *original seal* of the governors was discarded, and a *new one* adopted, which is still used. In the beginning of the present century, the *old seal*, being accidentally discovered in the possession of a gentleman of Leicester, was restored to the governors, and is now in their custody. Both seals are engraved in the valuable work of *Mr. Carlisle on Endowed Gram-*

*mar Schools*, vol. 2, which contains a full and authentic history of this school at Birmingham.

The following Gentlemen are the present Governors:—

*Elected 1797.*

George Simcox, Esq.  
James Woolley, Esq.  
Theodore Price, Esq.  
Mr. William Anderton.

*Elected 1813, and subsequently.*

William Hamper, Esq.  
Isaac Spooner, Esq.  
John Booth, M.D.  
Mr. Isaac Anderton,  
Rev. Laurence Gardner, D.D.  
George Freer, B.M.  
Charles Cope, Esq.  
Mr. Richard Wood,  
Mr. George Barker,  
James Taylor, Esq.  
Mr. John Cope,  
Rev. Anthony James Clarke,  
Mr. Oliver Mason,  
Mr. W. C. Alston.

At the chief School in New-street, besides the *Head-master* and *Under-master*, there is now an *Assistant Master to each* (all of whom are of the

clergy), also a *Writing Master* and a *Drawing Master*.

Head-master, Rev. John Cooke, M.A.

Assistant, Rev. Francis Freer Clay, M.A.

Under-master, Rev. Rann Kennedy, M.A.

Assistant, Frederick Darwall, B.A.

No age is specified at which boys are to be admitted, or at which they are to be superannuated. The number admitted upon the foundation at the School in New-street is, or lately was, limited to 130.

The institution possesses a good *Library*; and in the governor's parlour is a beautiful *marble Bust* of the *Founder*, executed by the celebrated sculptor *Scheemaker*.

#### THE BLUE COAT CHARITY SCHOOL

WAS instituted in the year 1724, and is supported by voluntary contributions, in aid of which sermons are preached and collections made twice a year at the several Churches and Chapels of the Establishment in Birmingham. The design of this very excellent Charity is to place poor children under the immediate protection of the subscribers as their parents, that they may be clothed, maintained, educated, and bound apprentices to persons of such useful employments as shall be thought proper for them. Formerly children were received at the age of *seven* years, but by the present regulations they are not admissible under the age of *nine*. All the

children are taught to read, write, and cast accompts; and the girls to sew, knit, and do household business.

The *School House*, an extensive stone-fronted building, situate on the north-eastern side of Saint Philip's Church-yard, was originally erected in the above-mentioned year, but greatly enlarged and improved in the year 1794, when the present stone front was added. The northern angle, however, did not receive its stone facing till within a few years past. This edifice forms a pleasing object from the church-yard, and is remarkable for chasteness of style and propriety of arrangement. Within the inclosure is a suitable area for play-ground.

In the year 1770, by voluntary subscription for that purpose, *two statues*, of stone, representing a boy and girl habited in the costume of the school, were executed in a very masterly and much admired manner by Mr. Edward Grubb, then of Birmingham. They are placed over the front door, with the following inscriptions:—

*Under the Girl,*

“ We cannot recompence you, but ye shall be  
“ recompenced at the Resurrection of the Just.”

*Under the Boy,*

“ Train up a child in the way he should go, and  
“ when he is old he will not depart from it.”

In January, 1829, there were in the school 181 boys and 74 girls—total, 255; of these, 17 boys

and 2 girls belonged to and were paid for by *Fenthams Charity*; and 9 boys and 2 girls belonged to and were paid for by the *Saint David's Society*.

The total expenditure of the establishment for the year 1828, was £2535 8s. 7d.

The children are clothed uniformly in *blue*, except those belonging to Fenthams Trust, who are distinguished by *green* clothing. They are generally in a most healthy state, and in appearance and demeanour are particularly clean and orderly.

The Governor and Governess of this well conducted institution are, according to the rules of it, required to be both unmarried, that the cares of a family may not interfere with their official duties.

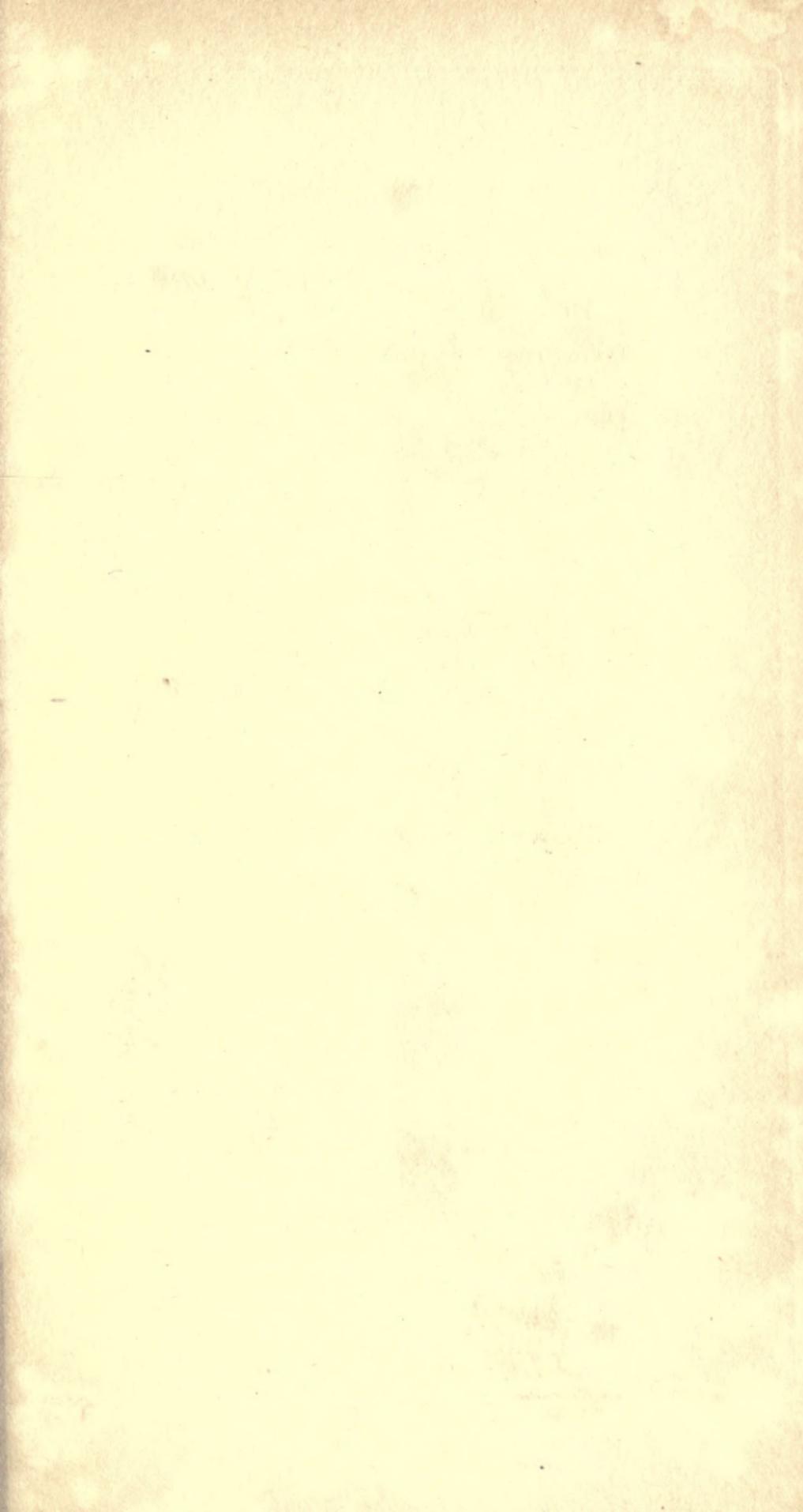
The choir of St. Philip's Church is composed of the children of this school.

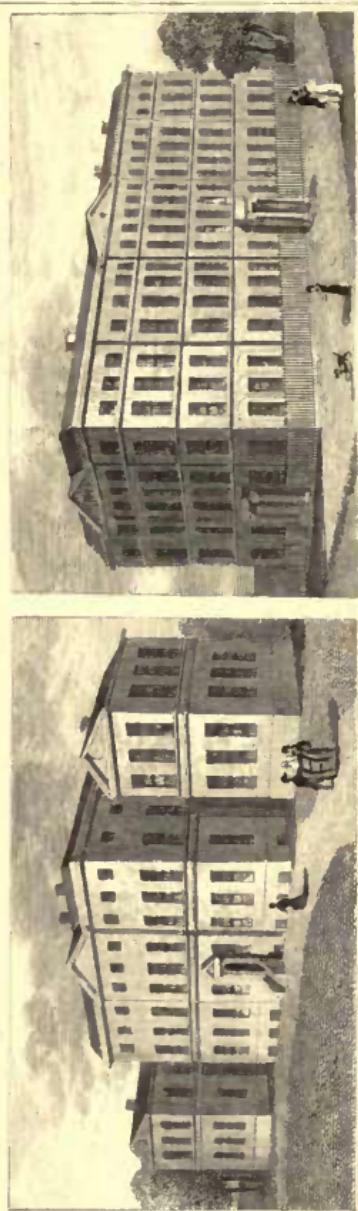
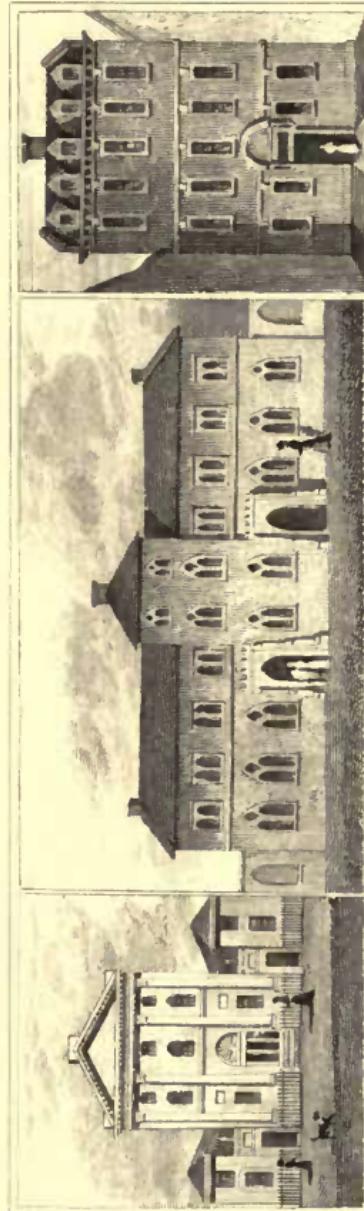
An annual ballot takes place at Easter for the admission of 50 children in the room of those who go out.

#### PROTESTANT DISSENTING CHARITY SCHOOL.

THIS School, supported by donations and annual subscriptions, is designed for the maintenance and education of poor *Female Children*, who are taught reading, writing, and common arithmetic, and otherwise instructed so as to qualify them for some reputable and beneficial service. The age at which children are admitted is from 9 to 12.

The *School House* is situate in *Park-street*, where





1. INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF & DUMB EDCBASTON.  
2. DISPENSARY.  
3. CHARITY SCHOOL PARK STREET.

4. GENERAL HOSPITAL.  
5. BLUE COAT CHARITY SCHOOL.

the children are lodged under the care of a Matron appointed to superintend them.

The nomination of the children is in the subscribers, who exercise the right by turns, for which they ballot.

GENERAL INSTITUTION  
FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF DEAF AND DUMB  
CHILDREN.

IN the autumn of 1812, a Lecture was delivered in the Rooms of the Birmingham Philosophical Institution, by Dr. De Lys, a physician resident in the town, on the instruction of the Deaf and Dumb. To illustrate some of the principles of this art, and, at the same time, to afford an example of their efficacy in practice, the Lecturer introduced a girl of the age of eight years, who had been deaf and dumb from her birth, and to whose instruction his friend, Mr. Alexander Blair, and himself, had given considerable attention. The audience at the lecture were much interested by this child. Her appearance was remarkably engaging; her countenance full of intelligence, and all her actions and attitudes in the highest degree animated and expressive; while the eagerness with which she watched the countenances of her instructors, and the delight with which she sprang forward to execute, or rather to anticipate their wishes, afforded a most affecting spectacle. The lecture, and espe-

cially the living exhibition, excited a very general and earnest desire that some means should be found of completing what had been so ably begun, and of extending similar advantages, by a still more masterly process, to numberless other children in the same unfortunate situation. After a preliminary private meeting, another more general meeting was held on the 4th of December, 1812, at which the present Institution was established under the most auspicious patronage. It is supported by annual subscriptions and occasional donations.

The committee appointed to carry into effect the objects of the above meeting, commenced its operations by engaging a proper master and opening a day school in the town, which was continued until Lord Calthorpe, an early and zealous promoter of the undertaking, erected on his estate, in the adjoining parish of Edgbaston, a suitable and convenient building, which he granted, with a proper appendage of land, on terms exceedingly liberal, as an *Asylum* for the purposes of the Institution. The building stands singly on a very pleasant spot of ground, quite spacious enough for the amusements and exercises of the children, and at such a distance from the town as both for the advantage of air and in other respects makes it very desirable for their abode.

This Asylum was opened January 4, 1815, when 20 children were admitted. It is adapted to the accommodation of 40, to which number the average complement of pupils nearly amounts.

Increased accommodation being requisite for enabling the head-master to reside upon the spot (an object considered to be highly essential to the well-being of the Institution), a sum of £1000 has been recently raised by subscription to defray the expences of erecting the necessary additional buildings. This subscription derived its chief aid from a *Bazaar*, which, under the kind, liberal, and judicious management of several Ladies of the neighbourhood, was held in the month of October, 1828, at the Royal Hotel, and produced, with the receipts of a *Ball* on that occasion, a sum amounting to nearly £650.

Children of both sexes, from all parts of the kingdom, who have the misfortune to be both deaf and dumb, are eligible to this Institution, from the age of eight to that of thirteen. The parents or friends of those children received into the Asylum contribute to a certain extent fixed by the committee, towards their maintenance, and also provide them with necessary clothing.

The able instructor originally appointed to this Institution was Mr. *Thomas Braidwood*, now deceased, grandson of the celebrated master of the same name, who, by the establishment of his school in Edinburgh, founded in this country the art of instructing the deaf and dumb.

The present head-master is Mr. *Louis Du Puget*, whose plan of instruction, and whose general qualifications and fitness for the duties of his situation, have been highly approved by the committee.

A matron is appointed to superintend the domestic department of the establishment; and a committee of ladies undertakes to superintend the management and employment of the girls.

In the month of October annually a general meeting of the subscribers is held in Birmingham, to receive the annual report of the committee, to pass the accounts, to appoint the officers and committee for the ensuing year, and to transact the other business of the Institution. At this meeting a public examination takes place of the children in the various branches of their education, and there is also a ballot among the subscribers for the nomination of the children (of late years ten in number) who are to be received into the Asylum in the place of those who leave it.

The Asylum is open to the inspection of visitors every day, between the hours of twelve and one.

His Grace the Duke of Devonshire has been President, and a liberal patron of this Institution from its commencement.

#### LANCASTERIAN SCHOOL.

THIS Institution, supported by annual subscriptions and other donations, was established September 11, 1809, for the instruction, according to the Lancasterian system, of 400 boys of the labouring class in reading, writing, and common arithmetic. One master directs the whole school, through the medium of monitors selected from the boys. The School Room is situate in *Severn-street*,

and is open to visitors every day during the usual school hours.

The average number of children on the books during the last year (1828) reached 300, of which the average number in attendance was 256.

The trifling payment of a penny a week is required from the parents of each child.

The committee has lately appealed to the public for an increase of annual subscriptions, which is deemed essential to the maintenance of the establishment in a state of efficiency.

There is also a *Female Lancasterian School* in *Park-street*.

#### NATIONAL, OR MADRAS SCHOOL.

ANOTHER School, bearing this denomination, was established in the year 1813, for the gratuitous education of the children of the poor according to the system introduced by Dr. Bell. The *School House*, a lofty and spacious brick building, is situated in *Pinfold-street*. The ground floor is used for the boys, over which is a room for the girls. A master and mistress are appointed to instruct the children. The mistress resides in a house erected for her residence within the school yard. A ladies' committee visits the girls' school.

On the 5th of June, 1827, the number of children in the school was—boys, 305; girls, 180. The average attendance in the boys' school is 265; in the girls', 140.

By a regulation of the committee, a penny a

week is now required of each child towards its education.

Plain needle-work of all kinds is executed at the girls' school upon very moderate terms ; and the committee considers that those who send it render very important services to the Institution.

The children assemble at the school on Sundays, and proceed to church, both morning and afternoon.

This Establishment is indebted to the bounty of the public for its support.

A School on this system was opened at *Ashsted* on the 7th of July, 1828.

BIRMINGHAM ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY,  
(OR WELSH CHARITY)

WAS formed on the anniversary of St. David's Day, March 1st, 1824, by several gentlemen connected with the Principality of Wales, its object being to assist in educating and clothing Children of Welsh parentage, not having parochial settlement in Warwickshire or the adjoining counties.

This Society supports ten boys in the Blue Coat School.

INFANT SCHOOLS.

THE institution of Infant Schools in Birmingham commenced in 1825, and has been successfully continued. The undertaking is supported by the donations and annual subscriptions of its patrons, whose benevolent object is to afford protection, as

well as suitable instruction, to poor children of tender years, not old enough to be admitted into other schools, hundreds of which class are exposed to much personal danger, as well as to the contamination of bad example, by being neglected or left without proper protection while their parents are engaged in household duties, or in earning that income on which the subsistence of the family either wholly or partially depends.

A spacious and convenient building is erected in *Ann-street*, as the *central, or principal School*. It has continued almost uniformly full during the whole of the past year (1828), the average number of children upon the books having been upwards of 200, and of those in attendance during the winter months, 140; and during the summer months, 180.

A *second School*, opened at *Islington*, is also satisfactorily attended; another, in connection with *St. George's Church*, has been since opened in *Brearley-street*; and the Society contemplates the establishment of others in different parts of the town, as soon as adequate resources for the purpose can be obtained.

The parents of the children are required to pay a trifling weekly contribution in aid of the funds of the Institution.

A committee of ladies assist in superintending the management of the above Schools, wherein the system of instruction pursued, through the medium of well qualified teachers, presents enough of novelty to interest the attention of visitors.

## SUNDAY SCHOOLS

ARE attached to most of the places of worship in the town, and supported by the respective congregations or friends of the different establishments. In connexion with *St. Philip's* is a *School of Industry for Girls*, in Little Cherry-street.

The children of most of these Schools are provided with comfortable and uniform clothing, in which to appear at their respective schools and places of worship.

## FENTHAM'S TRUST.

IN 1712, *George Fentham*, of Birmingham, by his will devised lands in Erdington and Handsworth, then of the annual value of about £20, which is now greatly improved, vesting the same in a succession of trustees, for the purpose of teaching children to read, and for clothing ten poor widows of Birmingham.

Those children in the Blue Coat School who are clothed in *green* are supported there by this Trust. Their number now averages from 15 to 20.

## CROWLEY'S TRUST.

*Ann Crowley*, in 1733, by her will devised six houses in Steelhouse-lane, then producing about £18 per annum, in Trust, to support a School for ten children; appointing that a female teacher should preside over them.

## SCOTT'S TRUST.

THIS Trust was created by the late *Joseph Scott*, Esq. in 1779. It is of some importance as to future income, on the termination of existing leases ; but the funds, though partially, and at a remote period, intended for the institution of a *School*, are chiefly applicable at the discretion of the trustees to the use of the religious Society attached to *Carr's-lane Chapel*.

## PIDDOCK'S TRUST.

*William Piddock*, in 1728, devised his farm at Winson Green, about nine acres, in Trust, after the death of his wife, for *educating* and putting out poor boys of Birmingham, or other discretionary charities in the same parish. This charity remained in oblivion, and the heirs of the devisor kept possession of the property, without performing the trusts, till 1782, when it was recovered from them by a suit in Chancery, and vested in a body of Trustees, for the charitable purposes intended by the testator.

## LENCH'S TRUST AND ALMS HOUSES.

*William Lench*, a native of Birmingham, the founder of this excellent and well appropriated charity, died in the reign of Henry the Eighth, having by deed settled a small property, then producing probably not more than £15 per annum, for repair-

ing the ruinous ways and bridges in and about the town, and for the benefit of the poor inhabitants, according to the discretion of the Trustees. The present income, however, which is upwards of £600 per annum, does not all arise from his bequest, for several benevolent individuals since his time have bequeathed property, now vested in the same Trustees, to be applied by them for the benefit of the poor of this place at their own discretion. The late *Mrs. Ann Scott*, of New-street, in the year 1808, appropriated upwards of £600 in an endowment for the benefit of the alms-people; and more recently, the late *Misses Mansell*, of Temple-row, made a gift in aid of this Trust.

The *original* existing *alms-houses* of this Trust are those in *Steelhouse-lane* (erected in 1764), containing 42 rooms; next those in *Dudley-street*, containing 38 rooms; afterwards those in *Park-street*, containing 32 rooms; and lastly, those in *Hospital-street* (erected in 1828), containing 34 rooms; making a total of 146 rooms, which are occupied by as many poor persons, principally widows, who receive quarterly five shillings each; but at the Christmas quarter this allowance is doubled and paid them on St. Thomas's day.

The applications for admission being very numerous, it has been the custom of late years, to render the charity beneficial to the most needy, not to admit any much under 70 years of age.

The complement of Trustees, when full, consists

of twenty of the most respectable inhabitants of Birmingham.

Mr. Hutton, in his History of Birmingham, remarks that there is an excellent clause in the devisor's will, ordering his bailiff to pay half a crown to any two persons who, having quarrelled and entered into law, should stop judicial proceedings, and make peace by agreement.

SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF POOR AGED AND  
INFIRM WOMEN.

This was established in January, 1825, and has been submitted to public patronage. The objects of relief are widows and single women of good character, infirm, and upwards of 65 years of age, and not having an income of 4s. per week. The affairs of the institution are under the superintendance of a committee of ladies, chosen from the subscribers, who visit the parties recommended to their care, and dispense relief according to the exigency of the case.

FEMALE PENITENTIARY.

In November, 1828, a body of gentlemen formed themselves into a provisional committee for the purpose of establishing by subscription an institution which, by affording a suitable asylum, and the means of religious instruction, may reclaim from a life of sin unhappy females professing themselves penitent; and

restore them to the paths of virtue and happiness. The object is considered to be attainable from the example afforded by the Magdalen Hospital, Lock Asylum, London Female Penitentiary, and Guardian Society, in the Metropolis; the Dublin Female Penitentiary; the Edinburgh Magdalen Asylum; and the Penitentiaries of Bath, Bristol, Exeter, and Gloucester.

At a recent meeting of the friends of the proposed establishment, the commencement of it was finally resolved upon, and a committee appointed to provide a suitable building and make the necessary arrangements.

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Besides several other Charitable Endowments *by individuals*, of minor consideration to those of Lench, Fenthams, and others, before noticed, there are many *private Benevolent Societies* throughout the town for visiting, clothing, and otherwise relieving the necessities of the sick, infirm, and destitute poor, and of the friendless stranger; among which are several for the assistance and comfort of poor lying-in women and their infants.

*Performances of Sacred Music* take place annually, about Christmas, at St. Paul's Chapel, for the benefit of aged and distressed housekeepers.

The benevolence of the inhabitants is further brought into operation through the medium of *Branch Societies*, which are formed here in aid of several of the National Institutions for religious and

moral instruction, both at home and abroad, such as the *Bible Society*, the *Church* and other *Missionary Societies*, the *Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews*, and some others.

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In a previous article, p. 75, we adverted to the *Private Clubs*, or *Friendly Societies*, which, being numerously established among the labouring classes for the mutual assistance of the members in sickness and old age, operate most usefully in forming and encouraging provident habits, and in stemming the progress of pauperism and dependance.

A more public institution for similar objects lately existed under the denomination of the *General Provident Society*. This, after nearly thirty years' duration, was found to be established on erroneous data, and the funds proving inadequate to meet the increasing claims upon them, a dissolution of the society took place at Christmas, 1828.

#### SAVINGS BANK AND FRIENDLY INSTITUTION.

In 1816 an attempt was made to establish a Bank for the small Savings of the Labouring Class, but the time was unpropitious, and the attempt failed.

In 1827 the propriety of such an institution was again taken into consideration by some of the leading inhabitants, and arrangements were then

made for the establishment of a *Savings Bank*, and for the formation of a *Friendly Institution* for the benefit of the industrious classes, and for making a safe provision in cases of sickness and old age, in conformity with the Acts of Parliament for the encouragement and protection of such institutions.

The *Savings Bank* is in a highly prosperous state, and sums to a very considerable amount in the whole have been deposited, the return of which is secured to the depositors, together with interest; but, in consequence of the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Laws respecting Friendly Societies, it has been determined to suspend all proceedings in the *Friendly Institution* until the investigations which have been commenced for more accurately determining the probabilities of life be brought to a conclusion, and the expected alterations in the laws affecting benefit Societies be determined upon by the legislature.

The *Savings Bank* is open every Monday and Thursday, from twelve to two o'clock, at the office, No. 6, *Cannon-street*.

According to the monthly report of June 20, 1829, the total amount invested in the Bank of England was £38,172 0s. 7d. and the total number of accounts then open was 2247.

The two Parochial Institutions for the relief of the Poor (the Workhouse and the Asylum) will next be noticed, in conclusion of this portion of our Work.

## THE WORKHOUSE.

This extensive, and in part lofty, pile of building for the accommodation of the poor, is situate in the lower part of *Lichfield-street*, extending backwards to *Steelhouse-lane*. The original portion was erected in 1733, since which time considerable additions have been made. The left wing is used as the Town Infirmary.

The affairs of the parish are under the management of twelve Overseers and of a numerous body of Guardians, according to the regulations of a local Act of Parliament, obtained in the 23d of Geo. the 3d.

The Guardians, to the number of 108, are elected every third year by the rate-payers, and they are invested with the same powers as overseers, except as to making and collecting rates. The overseers remain in office one year, but half of them are appointed at Lady-day, and the other half at Michaelmas, so as to avoid the inconvenience of their all going out of office at once. The churchwardens and overseers for the time being are constituted guardians by virtue of their office.

Under the powers of a subsequent Act, twelve Assistant Overseers, at salaries, are appointed by the rate-payers, for the better collection of the poor-rates, from which source the disbursements

in the parish affairs for the year 1828 amounted to £47,245.

Mr. Hutton in his History of Birmingham gives a list of the annual disbursements in the parish for the relief of the poor from the year 1676; from which list, wherein some years are omitted, we select the following periods of comparison:—

		£.	s.	d.
1676	..	338	14	7
1700	..	664	2	4½
1750	..	1167	16	6
1775	..	6509	10	10
1795	..	20732	9	2½
1815	..	55674	17	7½

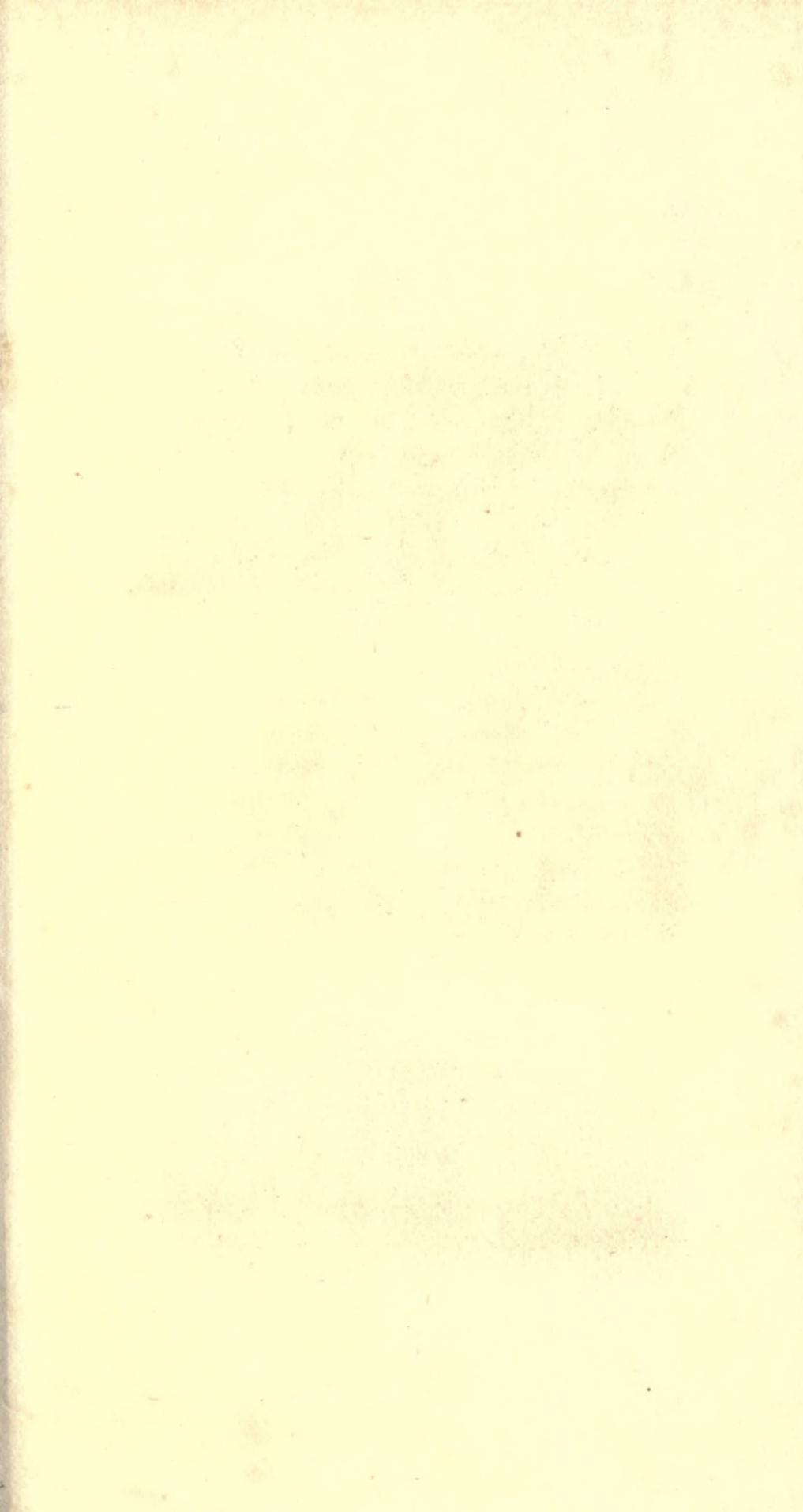
In the year 1818, a period of severe distress, the poor-rates exceeded the enormous sum of £61,000.

The number of persons dependent on parish relief in Birmingham was, at the under-mentioned periods of summer and winter, as follows, exclusive of the children in the Asylum:—

	July 5, 1828.	Jan. 3, 1829.
In the house	.. 382	460
Out-poor	.. 3197	3255

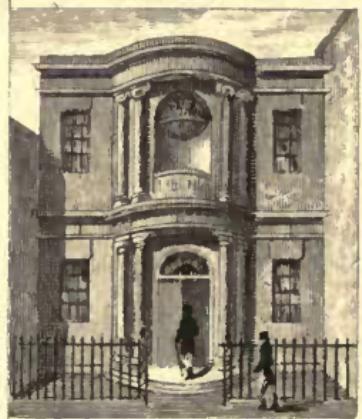
#### THE ASYLUM.

To obviate the evils necessarily attendant on the practice formerly pursued of placing out poor children to be nursed, the overseers and guardians, in

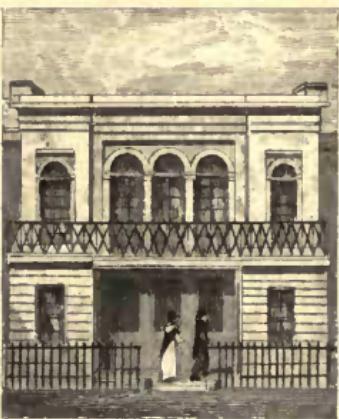




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1. THEATRE ROYAL | 3. NEW LIBRARY.  
2. LIBRARY. | 4. NEWS ROOMS.

the year 1797 provided suitable premises at the bottom of Summer-lane, on the outside of the town, as an Asylum for the Infant Poor of the parish, who here receive all needful care and attention. A committee of overseers and guardians is appointed to direct and superintend the management.

The manufacture of pins, straw plat, and lace is introduced for the employment of the children; from the produce of whose labour the premises have been purchased, enlarged, and improved, and now form a valuable property belonging to the parish. There is a bath attached to the institution, with garden and play-ground; and among the recent additions is a chapel, in which the children attend divine worship.

On the 3d of January, 1829, the number of children maintained, clothed, and educated here was 237.

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### AMUSEMENTS.

#### THEATRE.

THE *Theatre*, situate in New-street, nearly opposite to the Post-office, is distinguishable by the handsome stone façade in front, presenting a piazza and colonnade over it, with wings, on the face of

which, in the upper compartments, are two medallion busts, of excellent workmanship, representing the two great dramatic luminaries, Shakspeare and Garrick. This façade is said to have been designed by *Harrison*, of Chester, and has been generally admired for its elegance and unity of style. It comprises a large assembly room, and a tavern, for many years occupied as the *Shakspeare Tavern*, but now disused as such for want of adequate support. The room on the ground floor of the eastern wing has been long occupied as a *billiard-room*. The other rooms, including the assembly-room, no longer applied to its original purpose, are let, as opportunity offers, for auctions, and for public exhibitions and lectures. The name of the tavern is still attached to the building, ‘*The Shakspeare*’ continuing to be its local designation.

Returning, however, to the Theatre itself, to which the building just described is only an appendage, we find that the original erection on this spot for dramatic purposes arose about the year 1774, the above façade or portico being added in 1780. In August, 1792, this theatre was destroyed by fire, supposed to have been occasioned by incendiaries, who were never discovered. Within three years afterwards, the proprietors, who purchased several of the adjacent houses to enable them to improve their former plan, rebuilt the theatre in a more commodious manner and on an enlarged scale. This second erection experienced the fate of the

former one, and was destroyed by an accidental fire on the night of the 6th of January, 1820. On each occasion the front remained uninjured. The present elegant and commodious Theatre, on a still more enlarged and improved plan, was soon afterwards commenced on the same spot, and so rapid was the progress of erection, that it was opened to the public on the 14th of August in the same year, great exertions having been made that it should be in readiness for the Oratorios which immediately followed. It will contain an audience of more than 2,000 persons, and is brilliantly lighted with gas.— The box-office and entrance are beneath the piazza, in New-street; the pit is approached through a passage out of Lower Temple-street; and the gallery door is at the back, in Queen-street.

The usual theatrical season is from about Whit-suntide to November, in which period many of the leading metropolitan performers appear on the Birmingham stage. We apprehend however that the manager's career is seldom a gainful one, owing to the extraordinary apathy prevailing among the inhabitants with respect to theatrical amusements.

In 1807 an Act of Parliament was passed, by virtue of which, the royal licence was obtained for this theatre, thence denominated the *Theatre Royal*.

Theatrical exhibition is not of ancient date in Birmingham. First the Fields, now *Temple-street*, and afterwards the *Inkleys*, were the seats of the

performers' booth. About 1730 the amusements of the stage entered into something like a stable, in *Castle-street*. About 1740, a theatre was erected in *Moor-street*. About 1751 a London company appeared, which brought crowded houses, and so much increased the taste for theatricals, that in the following year a larger theatre was erected in *King-street*. Both theatres being more than the town could support, that in *Moor-street* (now taken down) was let for a methodist meeting-house. In 1774, when the theatre in *New-street* was built, that in *King-street* was enlarged, beautified, and made more convenient; but in 1786, the spirit of the stage drooping, the vacant theatre in *King-street*, like its predecessor in *Moor-street*, was converted into a dissenting meeting-house, which it still continues to be.—This outline of the history of the stage in Birmingham is traced from the more detailed account given in Mr. Hutton's history of the town.

## DANCING AND CARD ASSEMBLIES

Have been for many years held by subscription at the Royal Hotel, in *Temple-row*, where is a very spacious and handsome assembly-room, built expressly for the purpose, and subsequently enlarged. Of these assemblies, possessing the highest character for respectability, there are generally eight in the season, which is from October to March.

According to Mr. Hutton, there were, in 1750, two assembly-rooms; one in the Square, the other in Bull-street. The last was not much in use after that time. That in the Square continued in repute till 1765, when its former eminence began to decline in consequence of a remark made by Edward Duke of York, who, in October of that year, honoured the town by leading down the dance at this room, that superior accommodation ought to be afforded. In 1772 the Hotel was erected, and the new assembly-room there entirely superseded that in the Square.

#### PRIVATE CONCERTS.

The original Subscription Concerts, held at the Royal Hotel, have been established thirty years, and are warmly supported by the leading families in the town. There are usually three or four concerts in the year, at which much talent is generally displayed.

#### HARMONIC SOCIETY.

The Concerts of this Society are of more recent introduction. They also are held at the Royal Hotel, and sustain a respectable character.

As an appendage to our account of the General Hospital, we have already noticed the celebrated *Triennial Musical Festivals* held in Birmingham

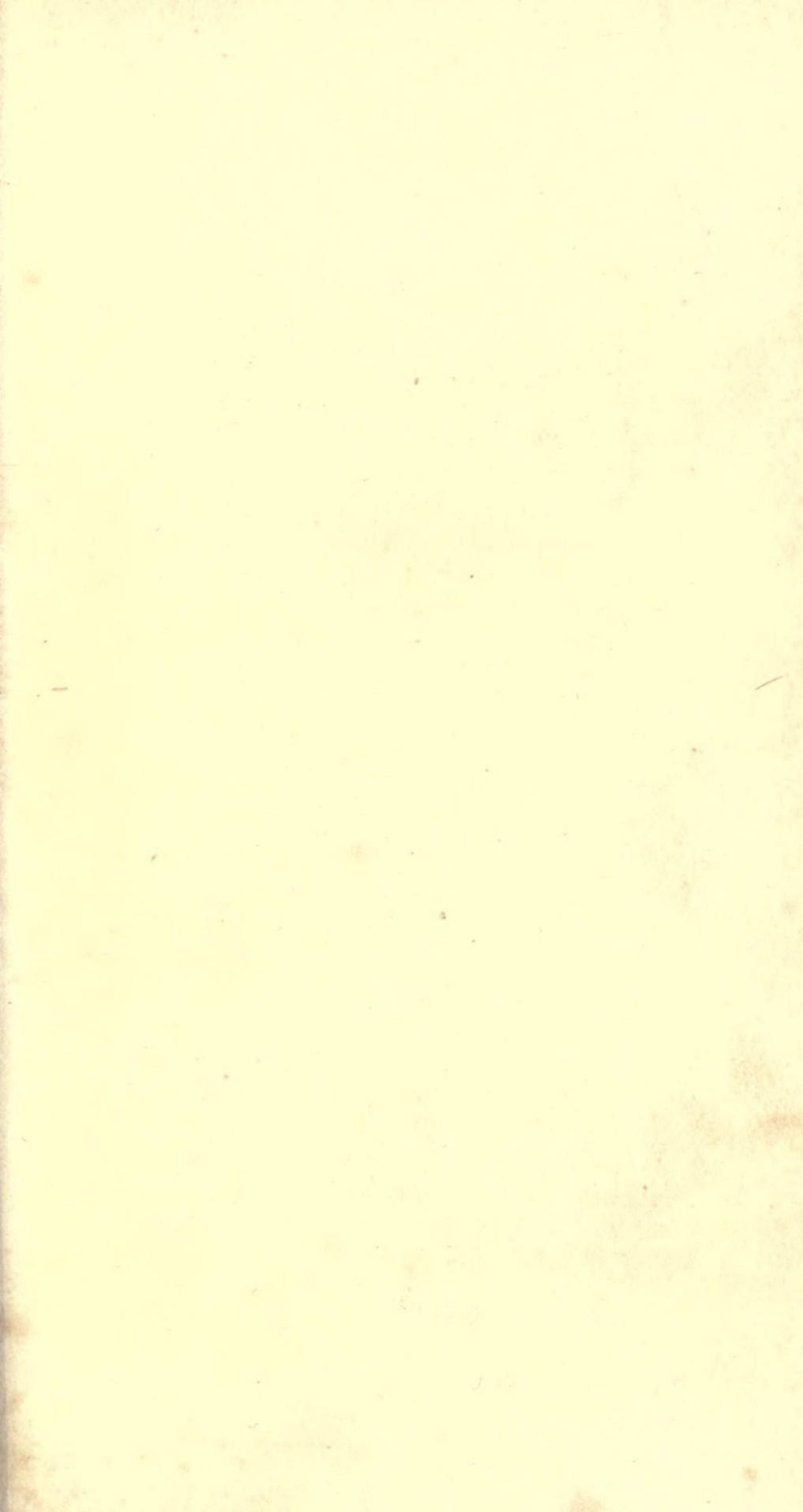
in connection with which is a Society called the *Oratorio Choral Society*. There are also many private Societies for the cultivation and practice of the science of Music, whose “magic numbers and persuasive sound” experience more favour in Birmingham than any other description of amusement.

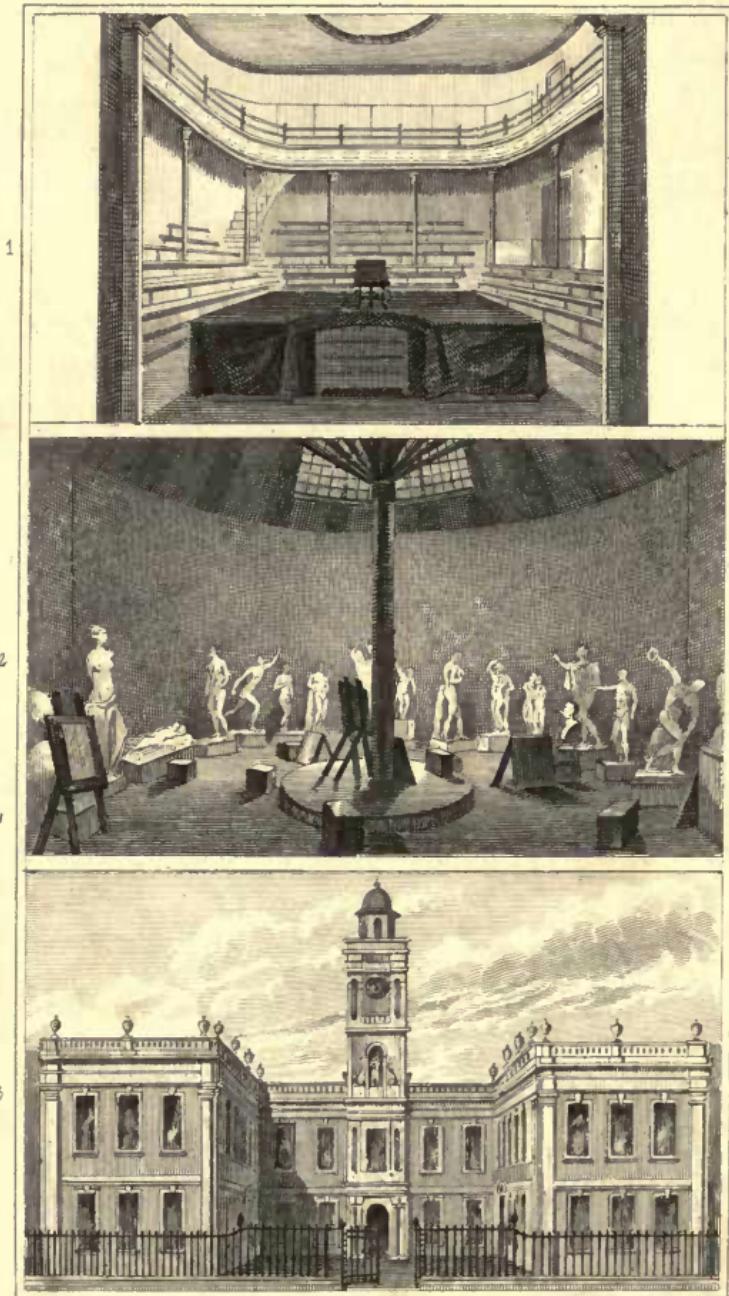
At *Vauxhall Gardens*, on the edge of the town, beyond Ashsted, are occasional public Concerts during the summer months, with exhibitions of Fire-works.

*Field Sports* are but little sought after by the people of Birmingham, being unsuited to their habits; and very few athletic sports or exercises now remain in practice among them. The game of *cricket* was a few years ago revived by one or two clubs in the suburbs. That of *bowls*, being driven from the town by the increase of building, has taken refuge on the borders, where are several excellent *bowling greens*, most of them attended by private parties of subscribers. The one at *Edgbaston*, with the buildings and grounds attached, is particularly tasteful and commodious.

The principal *Billiard Rooms* are that at the *Shakspeare* and another in *Needless-alley*.

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1. PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY LECTURE ROOM.

2. ACADEMY OF ARTS.

3. FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL OF K. EDWARD THE 6<sup>TH</sup>.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY  
ESTABLISHMENTS.

## PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTION.

From a small beginning about the year 1800, this Society, established to promote the acquisition and diffusion of useful knowledge, has now attained an important station, and is supported by a numerous list of subscribers from the leading inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. In 1812 commodious premises in *Cannon-street* were purchased, and fitted up in a convenient manner, for the purposes of the Society. They contain a good *Lecture Room* (since enlarged by the addition of a gallery) in which during the winter season, evening lectures on scientific subjects, chiefly in natural and experimental philosophy, are delivered once and sometimes oftener in each week; occasionally in elementary courses, by professional lecturers engaged by the managers, and at other times on detached subjects by some of the Fellows of the Institution. The subject chosen is generally one which allows the introduction of specimens, drawings, or practical experiments for its better illustration, and does not exclude the presence of ladies, who, on most

occasions, form a considerable portion of the highly respectable and numerous auditory by which these lectures are attended. There is also a *Reading Room*, which is provided with many of the most able scientific periodicals, and several of the principal London daily and other newspapers. Apartments are also comprised for the museum, extensive apparatus, laboratories, and experimental practice of the institution; together with a residence for the house-steward.

There are four classes of Subscribers, two of which are distinguished as Fellows and Associates. Three of the classes have transferable tickets to all the lectures. The management is entrusted to a Committee of Fellows and Associates, elected at the annual general meeting. The Rev. John Corrie has long been the President, and to his high talents and zealous patronage and exertions the society is much indebted.

## MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.

The object proposed by this Institution (commenced in 1825) is, as stated in the printed rules and regulations, the cheap instruction of the members in the principles of the arts they practise, and in various branches of science, by the following means, viz.

Elementary Schools for teaching Arithmetic, Al-

gebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, &c. with their various applications.

Lectures on Natural and Experimental Philosophy, Practical Mechanics, &c.

A Library of Reference, a Circulating Library, Reading Room, Laboratory, &c.

To these is proposed to be added, as soon as circumstances will permit, a Museum of Machines, Models, Minerals, Natural History, &c.

These means to be derived from the voluntary association of Mechanics and others, and the payment of a small annual or quarterly sum by each, donations of money, books, specimens, implements, models, apparatus, &c.

On the 21st of March, 1826, the then Vice-President, Mr. Benjamin Cook, delivered an Evening Address to a numerous auditory at Mount Zion Chapel, as a formal opening of the Institution, which has been continued with acknowledged utility and success, and with every prospect of permanent support.

To increase the utility of the lectures of the institution, they are occasionally delivered by professional lecturers.

The original plan of Elementary Schools has been extended to Classes in the higher branches of Mathematics and in Drawing, of which architectural and mechanical drawing forms a distinct class. A Writing Class has also been formed, for the instruction principally of the junior members.

Considerable progress has likewise been made in the formation of a Library, already amounting to nearly a thousand volumes, which are in constant circulation among the members.

The Society has the use of the Old Meeting School Rooms for their Classes and Library, and of the School Room at Ebenezer Chapel for their Lectures; but it is the intention of the Committee, as soon as their funds will permit, to provide more suitable building accommodations for the several purposes of the institution.

## SOCIETY OF ARTS.

This Society (in the words of whose printed Report great part of this article is given) was established in the year 1821, in order to promote extensively and efficiently the study of the *Fine Arts*, by providing ready means of acquiring a correct taste, and affording to the artists of Birmingham the opportunity of making their talents known to the public. On its formation, Sir Robert Lawley, Bart. presented a very valuable collection of those perfect Casts from Grecian Sculpture which were moulded in Paris when that capital possessed the original marbles. This liberal donation was followed by subscriptions from noblemen and gentlemen in the neighbourhood, amounting to about £1500. A part of this sum has been expended in adding to the collection of works of art by pur-

chases in Italy and elsewhere. The remainder, with subsequent resources, has been employed in the erection of new Exhibition Rooms. The Earl of Dudley has presented to the Society a splendid copy of the *Works of Piranesi*, in 12 vols. folio, to which several other gifts of books and works of art have been added.

The Society is conducted by a Committee consisting of Gentlemen not in the profession, assisted by a Committee of resident Artists. The Presidency has been successively held by Sir Robert Lawley, Bart. Lord Calthorpe, Francis Lawley, Esq. M.P. and the Earl of Dudley; and last year (1828) by Sir Robert Lawley again.

In the autumn of 1827 the Society, acceding to the wishes of the Artists, appropriated their building to the purpose of an exhibition of modern works of art, which was honoured by a contribution from the highly gifted President of the Royal Academy, and otherwise very ably supported. The success of the exhibition was particularly gratifying; it comprised many works of art of distinguished merit, and gave to the public a very favourable impression of the skill of the artists, justifying the expectation that such exhibitions would not only be acceptable to the public, but prove extremely instrumental in encouraging the genius and industry of the artists.

The Exhibition in the year 1828 consisted exclusively of the works of *Ancient Masters*, with the

view of extending the utility of the institution by procuring for students the means of becoming familiar with works of acknowledged merit. In the promotion of so desirable an object the committee experienced the liberal co-operation of the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood, who with the utmost readiness entrusted to the society on this occasion some of their most valuable pictures.

A second exhibition of *Modern Works* is intended to take place in the present year, 1829.

The circular building situate at the upper end of *New-street*, originally built for and used as a *Panorama*, and hitherto occupied by the Society for their exhibition rooms, was, at the close of the exhibition in 1828, taken down, and in the place of it more suitable and commodious rooms for study and for exhibitions have been erected, according to the plans and designs of the architects, Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson. The front is of stone, in the Grecian style of architecture, with blank windows, and presents a chaste and beautiful elevation, in which the principal feature is a noble portico, extending over the footpath, and supported by four fluted columns, which, with the pilasters on the face of the building, have highly enriched capitals.

The principal exhibition room is a circle, 52 feet diameter in the clear. This room, when not engaged for exhibition, to be used for the study of antique sculpture. The other apartments consist



SOCIETY OF ART'S EXHIBITION ROOMS

1. INTERIOR AS IT APPEARED IN 1829.

2. EXTERIOR.



of an additional exhibition room, a library, which may be occasionally used as an exhibition room for works of art connected with manufactures, a sculpture room, a room for water-colour drawings, a print room, a closet for books and prints, and a store room for casts, to be closed during an exhibition. There is a yard or passage entered from the street, at the extremity of which is an entrance for large packages into the exhibition room.

The collection of books and prints (to which students will, under proper regulations, be admitted) is intended not merely to embrace the higher objects in art, but to include that particular department which is applicable to the purposes of this large commercial town in its various manufactures of ornaments and bronzes.

It is the intention of the Committee to open their rooms for the exhibition of modern works of art as frequently as such exhibitions can be properly supported by the artists and the public.

Honorary Secretary, John Wilkes Unett, Esq.

BIRMINGHAM INSTITUTION FOR PROMOTING  
THE FINE ARTS.

The Committee of the Society of Arts being opposed to a number of the Artists in their wish for an *annual* exhibition of *Modern Works of Art*, the disappointed artists withdrew their support from the original institution, and determined to establish

another, which should be entirely under their own management, and exclusively for their benefit. Hence arose this second institution, which commenced early in the year 1828. It is under the direction of artists only, and any artist permanently resident in or being a native of Birmingham, or any place within thirty miles, is eligible as a member.

A handsome building has been erected in Temple-row for this new establishment, in which an exhibition of original *modern* works of art took place in the autumn of the same year, and proved highly successful.

#### SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

This Institution was commenced only in the year 1828. The following account of the plan on which it has been formed, and of the advantages held forth, is taken from the prospectus issued by the professional gentlemen who have exerted themselves in its formation.

The plan is that of communicating medical and surgical information in a course of lectures by different physicians and surgeons, to professional pupils, on Anatomy and Physiology, the theory and practice of Physic, Materia Medica and Pharmacy, the principles and operations of Surgery, Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children, and Chemistry, and occasionally on other subjects intimately connected with the profession ; thus embracing all that is most important in the ground-

work of medical education, and as often as possible reference will be made to cases in the Hospital, at the Dispensary, and Town Infirmary, in illustration of the History, Pathology, and Treatment of Diseases.

The advantages to be derived from this Institution are obviously of the first importance. Besides those of an early *systematic* initiation in their studies, and the *local* means thus afforded of accomplishing that object, the different pupils will find these lectures to be of great use to them in relation to the future and finishing part of their education in the metropolis. They will, by having attended them, be so much the better prepared for their examinations at the College of Surgeons, the Army Medical Board, and the Hall of Apothecaries in London; and it is announced on the authority of *official* documents from these public bodies respectively, that the certificates of the Lecturers in this School will be received by them. Thus eventually much *time* and *expence* will be spared to the pupils.

It is intended to erect an appropriate building, in a convenient part of the town, for the purpose of Lecture Rooms, and for the formation of an *Anatomical Museum* and *Library*, to be open to the students at all times, and to the profession generally at stated times, under proper regulations.

At present the Society occupies a portion of the building in *Temple-row* erected for the *Birmingham Institution*, where the first Session was opened on

the 20th of October, 1828, by an introductory discourse from Dr. Pearson.

It appears that institutions on a similar plan have proved successful at Liverpool, Manchester, and other large towns.

Mr. William Sands Cox, Surgeon, 24, Temple-row, Honorary Secretary.

THE BIRMINGHAM LIBRARY,

Generally called the *Old Library*, to distinguish it from a similar institution of more recent formation. This public Circulating Library originated in 1779, on a small scale, and so much has the establishment improved and flourished, that there are now upwards of 500 subscribers, and the number of volumes is rapidly approaching to 20,000, among which are many costly and valuable works. The admission ticket, originally one guinea, is now £10, and the annual subscription, which at first was six shillings, is increased to £1.

In 1798 a handsome and capacious stone-fronted edifice was erected in *Union-street*, by subscription, on the Tontine principle, for the reception of the books and the accommodation of the subscribers. On the curved part of the front of the building, over the portico, is this inscription—

“ *Ad mercaturam bonarum artium profectus, et tibi et omnibus ditesces.*”

Which is thus rendered in English—

“ Resorting to the Mart of the Sciences, you will grow rich both for yourself and others.”

In this Library are deposited copies of such of the Public Records as have been printed by authority of Parliament.

#### THE NEW LIBRARY

Was commenced in 1796, on a plan similar to that of the Old Library. A few years ago the institution was removed from the rooms which it originally occupied at the lower end of Cannon-street, to a neat and commodious building in *Temple-row West*, erected, by Tontine subscription, purposely for its reception.

#### THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY.

The low building adjoining to the Parsonage House, at the corner of St. Philip's Church-yard, erected by the Rev. Spencer Madan, in 1792, contains the Library bequeathed by the first Rector, the Rev. William Higgs, for the use of the clergy of the town and neighbourhood.

#### NEWS ROOM.

A large and commodious building, erected by a company of proprietors (from the designs of Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson) expressly for the purpose of a News Room, and suitably fitted up, was

opened to the subscribers on the first of July, 1825. It is placed on the new line of street at *Bennet's-hill*, near the Post-office, a central and most convenient situation.

There is a liberal supply of London, Provincial, and Foreign Newspapers, with Shipping, Commercial, and Law Intelligence; and the London Gazette and some other papers are filed and preserved for reference.

Strangers are admissible into the News Room on the personal introduction of an annual subscriber.

Advertisements and Notices may be placed in the Room through the medium of the keeper, on payment according to the rate fixed by the Committee of Management.

The institution is kept open from nine o'clock in the morning until nine in the evening, except on Sundays, when it is open from half past twelve o'clock until three only.

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#### MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND ESTABLISHMENTS.

##### PUBLIC OFFICE AND PRISON.

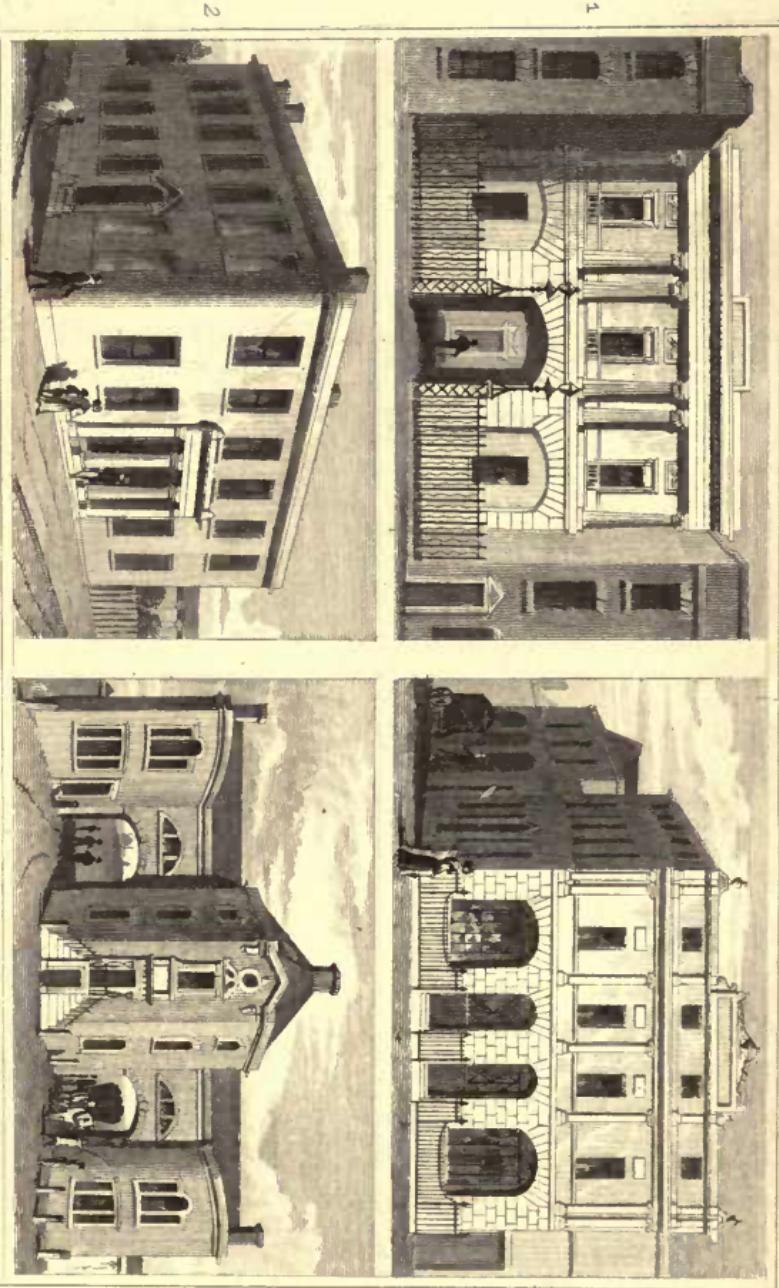
These buildings are placed in a confined situation in *Moor-street*, on land leased from the Governors of the Free School. They were erected at a heavy

1. PUBLIC OFFICE.

2. POST OFFICE.

3. BIRMINGHAM FIRE OFFICE.

4. BIRMINGHAM CANAL OFFICE.





expence in the year 1806, and are substantially built, with an ornamental front elevation of stone.

The first division of the building contains the *Public-office*, the upper floor of which is occupied by the magistrates, who hold their meetings here every Monday and Thursday morning. The ground floor is appropriated chiefly to the Commissioners of the Street Act. Occasionally the apartments are used for other public business.

Behind the Public-office, but separated by a court yard, is the Prison-keeper's House, with the *Prison* in the rear. The latter is well adapted to its purpose, clean, and as airy as the situation will allow; and subdivided, so that the male and female prisoners are kept quite apart. The present prison-keeper is Mr. George Redfern.

The Public-office being found much too small and incommodious for the increased and increasing population and public business of the town, it is intended to alter, enlarge, and improve the present erection, for which purpose the recent town improvement Act empowers the Commissioners to purchase certain of the houses and premises adjoining.

In former times criminal justice was administered by the Lords of Manors, even to the extent of capital punishment. Mr. Hutton informs us, that early perhaps in the sixteenth century, when the House of Birmingham, whose Lords had been chief gaolers, was extinguished, a building was

erected which covered the east end of New-street, called the *Leather Hall*, the upper part consisting of a room where the public business of the manor was transacted, the under part being divided into several, one of which was used for a *prison*; that about 1728, the Leather Hall and Dungeon were taken down, and three houses built on the spot, which were purchased by the town commissioners in 1776 to open the way; that a narrow passage on the south was called the *Dungeon Entry*; and that a dry cellar opposite the demolished hall, afterwards part of Mr. Hutton's premises, was then appropriated to a prison, till the town provided another at the bottom of *Peck-lane*, dark, narrow, and unwholesome within, crowded with dwellings, filth, and distress without, and the circulation of air prevented. This latter continued to be the town prison, under the name of the *Dungeon*, till the erection of the present one in Moor-street; and the house at the back of High-street, now occupied for the Court of Requests, was used as the Public-office.

## PRISON, BORDESLEY.

This Prison, which appertains to the parish of Aston, is situate in the High-street, Bordesley, and kept by Mr. W. D. Brownell.

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## THE COURT OF REQUESTS

Was instituted by Act of Parliament in the year 1752, for the more easy and speedy recovery of small debts within the town of *Birmingham*, and the adjoining hamlet of *Deritend*. Originally its cognizance was limited to debts not exceeding forty shillings, but in 1807 another Act was obtained, by which the powers of the Court were extended to the recovery of debts not exceeding five pounds. There are debts of a certain description to which the acts do not apply, but all debts recoverable in this Court are not to be sued for elsewhere. There is a proviso saving the Jurisdiction of the ancient Court Baron held by the Lord of the Manor of Birmingham within that town, and also the Jurisdiction of an ancient Court held for the Hundred of Hemlingford, in this county. The Court Baron has fallen into disuetude as to matters of debt, but the powers of the Hundred Court are occasionally resorted to.

A number of Commissioners are appointed, by three or more of whom the Court is to be held every Friday, or oftener if needful. There are two clerks (attorneys), who attend all the sittings of the Commissioners, and register the proceedings, and issue the process of the Court; and a beadle, whose duty it is to execute such process.

Provision is made for the appointment from time

to time of new Commissioners, and no person is qualified to act as Commissioner without taking an appointed oath, nor unless he shall, at the time of acting, be a householder, or shall carry on trade within the jurisdiction of the Court, and be possessed of a real estate of the clear annual value of £50, or of a personal estate of the clear value of £1000.

Vacancies in the office of Clerk are supplied alternately by the Lord of the Manor and by the Commissioners; but the Lord of the Manor has the sole appointment of the Beadle.

The fees of the clerks and beadle are regulated by the Acts, which direct a table of them to be hung up conspicuously in the Court-house.

The judgment of the Commissioners is final.—The time of imprisonment of defendants in execution is limited in proportion to the amount of debt, the greatest time being one hundred days; but in case of any fraudulent concealment of property, the Commissioners have power to inflict an additional imprisonment not exceeding three months.

The Court was originally held in the building called the *Old Cross*, long since demolished. It is now held in an old house, formerly *Mansell's Tea Warehouse*, situate in a recess at the back of High-street, nearly opposite to the end of New-street, but much too small and incommodious for the purposes to which it is applied. In this building, which also comprises the *prison* of the Court, the

Magistrates of the town had used to hold their sittings before the erection of the Public-office in Moor-street.

Two sets of Commissioners sit at the same time, for the dispatch of business, the cases coming before them being very numerous.

Considerable amendment is said to be requisite in the constitution and practice of this Court, and the state of its prison, subjects which have lately fallen under much public animadversion.

The recent Town Improvement Act empowers the Commissioners of that Act to purchase all the rights of the Lord of the Manor in or appertaining to the Court of Requests.

#### POST OFFICE.

On the opening a few years since of *Bennett's-hill*, opposite the Theatre, in New-street, the present commodious Post Office was erected at the foot of it, in lieu of the former one, which was nearly on the same spot, but fronted to New-street.

There are several authorised receiving houses for letters in the outer parts of the town.

#### EXCISE OFFICE.

The office for the business of the Excise department in Birmingham is at present situate in *New-street*, at the corner of Lower Temple-street, a very short distance from the Post Office.

## ASSAY OFFICE.

By an Act of Parliament passed in 1824 (which repealed a former Act of 13th Geo. III. so far as related to Birmingham) all gold and silver plate wrought or made within the town of Birmingham, and within thirty miles thereof, is (for the prevention of fraud in the working of those metals, and under penalties provided for securing the object of the Act) to be assayed and marked by the Wardens and Assayers appointed for assaying wrought plate in Birmingham, who have an office in *Little Cannon-street*, where they attend at stated times for the performance of their duties.

The Act appoints a number of Guardians, whom it incorporates by the name of "the Guardians of the Standard of Wrought Plate in Birmingham," and invests with all necessary powers; providing also for the supply of vacancies in the body by death or otherwise.

## GUN BARREL PROOF HOUSE.

In 1813 an Act of Parliament was passed "to insure the proper and careful manufacturing of Fire Arms in England; and for making provision for proving the Barrels of such Fire Arms."

By this Act, the Lords Lieutenant of the counties of Warwick, Worcester, and Stafford, and the Members in Parliament for those counties for the

time being, with fifteen persons resident in Birmingham, and their successors, to be chosen as therein directed, are created a body politic and corporate by the name of "the Guardians, Trustees, and "Wardens of the Gun Barrel Proof House of the "town of Birmingham," and invested with the necessary powers, for proving in the manner directed by the Act all Barrels for Fire Arms which shall be brought to the Proof House at Birmingham for that purpose. The Act contains an exception as to fire arms for the use of his Majesty's forces, or for the East India Company (which Government and the East India Company prove under their own direction), but all others are to be duly proved at the Proof House in Birmingham, as above authorised, or some other authorised Proof House, under a penalty not exceeding £20 for every default. Each barrel on being proved receives a certain proof mark, to forge which subjects the offending party to a similar penalty. Not more than one shilling is to be charged for proving each barrel; and the receipts are to be regulated by, and employed in defraying, the necessary expences of the establishment, including the liquidation, with interest, of the subscriptions raised for providing the ground and buildings required.

The handsome hall and very commodious premises of the Company are situate in Banbury-street, by the side of the canal there. A flag is hoisted from the building on the days of proving.

The above Act in its origin contemplated the proof of all fire arms in London. This would have been a serious grievance to the gun-makers in Birmingham, who manufacture so large a proportion of English fire arms. They consequently interfered in the progress of the bill, and ultimately succeeded in obtaining the establishment of a Proof House in this town, where the bulk of the articles to be proved are made.

## BARRACKS FOR CAVALRY.

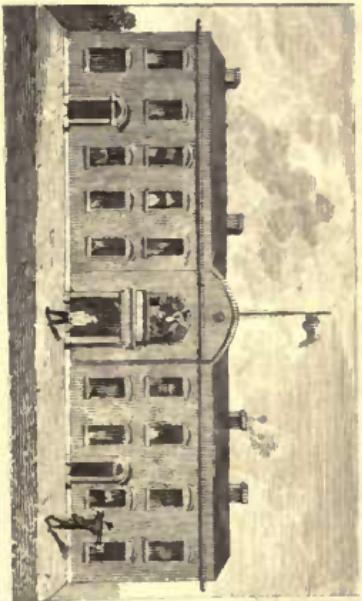
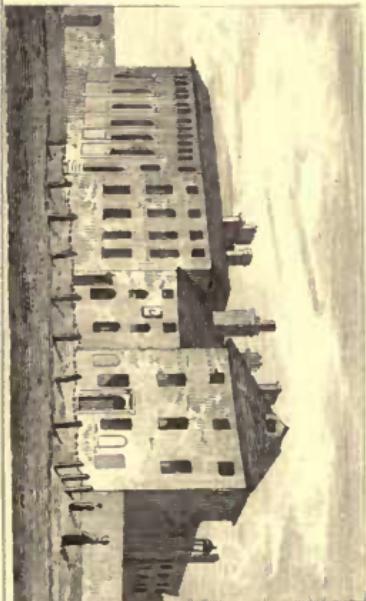
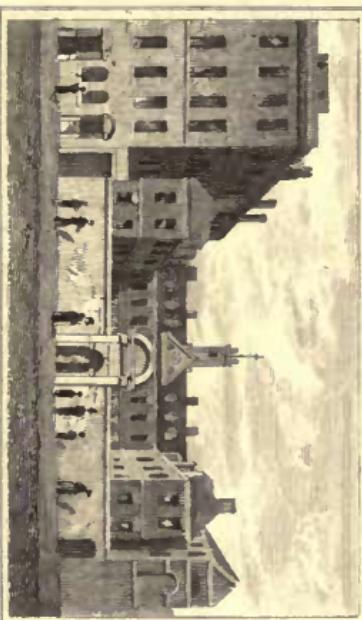
Soon after the riots of 1791, when the town suffered so severely for want of the immediate aid of cavalry, Government took a lease of five acres of land in a dry and airy situation at Duddeston, in the adjoining parish of Aston, on the north-east side of the town (formerly the property of the Holtes, but then belonging to Heneage Legge, Esq.) upon which, in 1793, commodious Barracks were erected sufficient for 162 men with their horses, the whole inclosed with a wall.

The approach is from Great Brooke-street, on the road to Vauxhall, and near to Ashsted Chapel.

The centre building shewn in our view contains the officers' apartments.

A troop of horse is constantly stationed here.

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1 CAVALRY BARRACKS.

3 GUN PROOF HOUSE.

2 WORKHOUSE.

Birmingham Published by Bellamy, Scott & Bailey, July 1<sup>st</sup> 1808

4 ASYLUM FOR INFANT POOR.



## THE GENERAL MARKET PLACE,

In its most limited extent, comprises the descending and rather spacious area of High-street and the Bull-ring, from the yard of the Swan Hotel to the walls of St. Martin's Church yard, where the breadth, which gradually increases from the summit, is considerable; but the market straggles far beyond these bounds, and is continued along the upper part of High-street to the entrance of Dale-end, where is a space allotted for stalls, formerly used as the beast market. Nearly all the buildings forming the line of street, are occupied as retail shops, and some are lofty and of bold appearance. From the brow of the descent is a view looking over Deritend to the elevated fields at Highgate.

On a spot nearly opposite to Philip-street, formerly stood

## THE OLD CROSS,

a covered building erected in the year 1702, and called simply *The Cross* till the Welsh Cross arose, when it became distinguished as the *Old Cross*. The under part was a useful shelter to the market people. The room over it was designed for the Court Leet, and other public business. This building was taken down in 1784.

From this point down to the Church-yard, much of the present space was thickly covered with shops

and dwellings until the commencement of the present century, when they were all removed. Among these buildings, and next below the Cross, was a range called the *Shambles*, occupied by butchers, for the sale of meat.

Subsequent improvements have cleared away the houses which stood on the east side of Spiceal-street and round the Church-yard, and measures are now in progress for the further enlargement, concentration, and increased commodiousness of the Market-place, and for the erection of a Market Hall and other suitable buildings, the want of which has been long severely felt.

In connection with the subject of the present head, we shall here observe, that at the foot of Bull-street, where Dale-end branches off, stood another Cross, called the

#### WELSH CROSS,

which afforded considerable market accommodation, being surrounded by steps, and the lower part open. This was built not many years after the Old Cross, and stood till 1803, when it was removed, to widen the street.\* The upper room was used for public purposes. A turret and clock surmounted this building, in front of which was fixed the pillory and stocks.

\* Formerly this spot bore the name of the *Welsh-end*, perhaps from the number of Welch in its neighbourhood, or rather from its being the great road to that Principality.—*Hutton*.

## NELSON'S STATUE.

In the centre of the Market-place, facing the Church, and nearly in a line with the Nelson Hotel and Coach-office, stands the Statue erected by the inhabitants in honour of the great Naval Hero of England, the late Admiral Lord Nelson. It is exceedingly well executed in bronze, by that eminent statuary, Westmacott; and with the pedestal, palisades, and lamps, cost about £3000, which was raised by voluntary subscription. The work was opened to the public on the 25th of October, 1809, the day on which was celebrated the Jubilee of his late Majesty King George the Third, when the following authorised description of it was published:—

“ In this work, intended to perpetuate the greatest example of Naval Genius, simplicity has been the chief object in the arrangement. The Hero is represented in a reposed and dignified attitude, his left arm reclined upon an anchor: he appears in the costume of his country, invested with the insignia of those honours by which his Sovereign and distant Princes distinguished him. To the right of the statue is introduced the grand symbol of the naval profession; Victory, the constant leader of her favourite hero, embellishes the prow. To the left is disposed a sail, which, passing behind the statue, gives breadth to that view of the composition. Above the ship is the fac-simile of the Flag Staff Truck of L'Orient, fished up by Sir Samuel Hood the day following the Battle of the Nile, presented by him to Lord Nelson, and now deposited at Milford, as a trophy of that ever-memorable action. This group is surmounted

“ upon a pedestal of statuary marble. A circular form has  
“ been selected, as best adapted to the situation.

“ To personify that affectionate regard which caused the  
“ present patriotic tribute to be raised, the Town of Bir-  
“ mingham, murally crowned, in a dejected attitude, is  
“ represented mourning her loss; she is accompanied by  
“ groups of Genii, or Children, in allusion to the rising  
“ race, who offer her consolation by bringing her the Tri-  
“ dent and Rudder. To the front of the pedestal is the  
“ following inscription :—

“ This Statue in honour of ADMIRAL LORD NELSON,  
“ was erected by the Inhabitants of Birmingham,  
“ A. D. MDCCCIX.

“ The whole is inclosed by iron palisades in the form of  
“ boarding pikes, connected by a twisted cable. At each  
“ of the four corners is placed a cannon, from which issues  
“ a lamp post representing a cluster of pikes, supporting a  
“ ship lantern.”

#### THE MARKET PUMP.

At the foot of the Market-place, nearly close to the Church-yard wall, is a public Pump, erected, about the year 1807, from a design by Mr. Hollins, who styled the performance an Egyptian Conduit.

It is a cumbrous and anomalous erection of stone, of a pyramidal shape, and in every respect peculiarly unfitted for the purpose to which it is applied.

#### SMITHFIELD.

This spacious and commodious Market-place occupies the site of the ancient manor house and

moat, at a short distance south of St. Martin's Church; and was opened on Whitsun fair day, Thursday the 29th of May, 1817, having been constructed by the Commissioners of the Street Acts, at an expence, including the purchase of the land and premises, of between £5000 and £6000. Here the beast market, and hay and straw market are held; the beast market on Thursday, and the other on Tuesday, in each week. Previously the cattle market was held in the wide part of Dale-end; the horse, sheep, and pig market at the lower end of New-street; and the hay and straw market in Ann-street.

For every head of cattle, or load of hay or straw exposed to sale elsewhere in the town, there is a penalty of 20s., except horses sold at the fairs, which will be as usual.

Adjoining to Smithfield is the *Common Pound*, which a century ago was situate in the street called Pinfold-street, exactly opposite to Peck-lane.

## DERITEND BRIDGE.

The principal bridge over the small river Rea is that at the foot of Digbeth, the leading entrance into the town from the London road. As now rebuilt and improved, it is a commodious and substantial structure. Formerly the lower part of Digbeth was, in times of flood, impassable; and it became absolutely necessary to take down and rebuild the bridge, to widen and improve the ap-

proaches to it, and to widen, deepen, and vary the bed and course of the river. Accordingly an Act of Parliament was obtained in 1788 for the accomplishment of these objects by means of a toll and rate; but this Act expired before the undertaking could be completed, and the tolls having produced less, and the works cost much more, than had been originally estimated, the Trustees found themselves on the termination of their powers, many thousand pounds in debt. An application to Parliament to renew the Act for a further term, and to increase the tolls, met with such a powerful opposition that it was unsuccessful, and the works remained in an incomplete state till 1813, when the Trustees succeeded in obtaining another Act to enable them to finish the improvements contemplated by the first Act, and to reimburse the sums borrowed on security of the tolls, the parties having agreed to sacrifice the interest. This Act continued in force till 1822, when another Act was obtained for the purpose of widening the lower part of Digbeth, and widening and repairing the two other bridges in Bradford-street and Cheapside. For this purpose power was given to continue the tolls till the 1st of January, 1830. The trustees, however, were enabled to accomplish all the objects of this last Act in a shorter period than was given by it, and the tolls were discontinued on the 27th of August, 1828.

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## OTHER BUILDINGS AND ESTABLISHMENTS, AND OBJECTS OF PUBLIC NOTICE.

### LADY WELL AND BATHS.

Near the site of St. Martin's Parsonage-house, recently demolished, is an ancient and public Well, called *Lady Well*, from its having, in all probability, been formerly dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It is a bounteous and never-failing source of the purest soft water, which (like the Digbeth water, plentifully arising from an extension of the same spring or bed) is pleasant to drink, and in great request for various domestic purposes. An attempt made in July, 1818, wholly to inclose this well was successfully resisted by the interference of the Town Commissioners, and it now remains open to the public as before. Attached to it is a *Bathing-house* and Establishment, where hot, cold, shower, vapour, and various medicated baths, and all requisite accommodations for the use of them, are provided. Here is also a good Swimming, or *Pleasure Bath*, 52 feet wide, 110 feet long, of gradual depth from three to six feet, and receiving a continual supply of fresh water, situate in the centre of a garden, inclosed by a high wall and trees, and furnished with separate dressing-boxes and bowers. A passage leading to the above well and baths, out of Smallbroke-street, is called *Lady Well Walk*.

## PUDDING-BROOK,

No more than a ditch in dimensions, deriving its name from the muddy water of a common sewer which it conveys in a southerly direction *from* the town, has attracted some notice owing to the curious circumstance of an equal sized rivulet of clear water, separated only by a narrow footpath, and running parallel to the foul stream for a considerable distance, having proceeded in an *opposite*, or northerly direction *into* the town, where it discharged itself in the Moat, which having been filled up to form Smithfield Market-place, the stream is now diverted, though a considerable portion of its channel still remains without much alteration in appearance. Mr. Hutton, who mentions the curiosity in his History, observes that it surprised Brindley, the famous engineer.

## BIRMINGHAM CANAL.

Under the authority of an Act of Parliament, obtained in 1767, a Canal was cut from *Birmingham* to *Bilston*, and from thence to *Atherley*, near *Wolverhampton*, where it joins the *Staffordshire* and *Worcestershire* Canal, which connects the Rivers *Trent* and *Severn*. This Canal (of which there is a branch extending to *Walsall*, besides several other branches and collateral cuts) runs through the heart of the *Staffordshire* mining district, from whence *Birmingham* derives nearly the whole of her

immense supplies of coal, and many of the heavy materials used in her manufactures and buildings. The principal line, about 22 miles in length, was finished in 1772, but some of the branches are of more recent formation.

In 1783 another Act was obtained, under which an extension of the Canal was made from Birmingham to join the Coventry Canal at or near *Fazeley*, in the parish of Tamworth. The length of this line is about 15 miles.

By another Act, passed in 1784, the two concerns were united, and the shares consolidated, the proprietors being thereby incorporated as one body, whose legal denomination is “the Company of “Proprietors of the Birmingham Canal Naviga-“tions.”

The original and principal *Wharf* of the Company is at *Easy-hill*, and occupies a large space of ground, inclosed by a wall, and faced at the entrance next to *Paradise-street* with a range of substantial buildings which comprise the offices for transacting the business of the Canal. This is commonly known as the *Old Wharf* and *Navigation Office*. There is another *Wharf* situate in *Newhall-street*, nearly on the site of the demolished mansion of the Colmore family, called *New Hall*.

Such has been the flourishing state of this concern, and so great its increased value to the proprietors, that for convenience of disposal each ori-

ginal share has been divided into eight parts, one of which eightths has sold for more than the sum (£270) originally paid on a single consolidated share.

To afford increased facility to the trade between Birmingham and the Collieries, the proprietors have recently, at an immense expence, greatly improved that portion of their canal ; and to secure an abundant supply of water have constructed at *Rotton Park* a large and deep *Reservoir*, occupying more than 50 acres of land, including the pool called *Roach Pool*, and forming the largest sheet of water in the neighbourhood of Birmingham.

#### WORCESTER AND BIRMINGHAM CANAL.

This Canal communicates with the Birmingham Canal at the Old Wharf, and extends about thirty miles till it joins the River *Severn* at Digris, near Worcester. There are several tunnels on the line, that at King's Norton being a mile and a half in length. The original Act was obtained in 1791, but so erroneous was the first estimate of expence, and such were the delays and embarrassments occasioned by a deficiency of funds, that more than twenty years elapsed before the completion of the work, during which the proprietors were on several occasions under the necessity of applying to the Legislature for additional powers.

This concern is gradually recovering from the depression under which it has so long suffered ; a

dividend is now annually made; and the shares, which some years ago were considered almost worthless, and in respect of which the original proprietors suffered considerable loss, in 1829 produced in the market nearly £70.

The Company has an *Office* and extensive *Wharf* (recently much improved) situate between the Old Wharf and Upper Gough-street, to which the principal entrances are from the top of *Wharf-street*, and the top of *Severn-street*.

#### WARWICK AND BIRMINGHAM CANAL.

An Act of Parliament was obtained in 1793, and another in 1796, for making this Canal, which extends from *Warwick* to *Birmingham*, where it communicates with the Digbeth branch of the *Birmingham* and *Fazeley Canal*. It is about 22 miles in length, and was completed in 1800. The *Warwick and Napton Canal* unites with this near to *Warwick*, and at *Lapworth* is a branch connecting it with the *Stratford Canal*.

The shares, originally £100, sold in 1829 for £270.

These Canals, connected as they are with others, confer on *Birmingham* the advantage of water conveyance to and from the principal sea-ports and trading towns and districts of the kingdom.

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## WATER-WORKS.

After some previous unsuccessful attempts to establish Water-Works in Birmingham, a Company of Subscribers, in May, 1826, obtained an Act of Parliament (briefly noticed at p. 97) for the purpose of affording a regular supply of good soft water, through pipes, for the use of the inhabitants of Birmingham, and the adjoining parishes of Aston and Edgbaston. The authorised capital is £120,000, in shares of £25 each, with power to borrow to the extent of £30,000 more, if needful; but the act providing that £116,925, the estimated amount of expence, should be subscribed for before it was put in force, and the subscription list being for a long time deficient of the requisite number of shares, the Directors have been restrained from making contracts or prosecuting the undertaking. It has, however, been recently advertised that the subscription is at length filled, and that the works will now be commenced immediately.

The act requires that the purchases of land for reservoirs be made within five years, and that all the works be completed within seven years from the passing of it, otherwise the powers of the act will cease.

The water is intended to be obtained from the River *Tame*, and from a brook near *Salford Bridge*, in the parish of Aston, called *Hawthorn Brook*. One *Reservoir* will be formed near to that bridge,

and another at or near to a place in *Edgbaston*, called *Parrott's Folly*, or the *Monument*.

#### BIRMINGHAM FIRE OFFICE.

This institution was established in March, 1805, and is empowered by Act of Parliament. The capital subscribed for is £300,000, to which extent the Company, in case of need, is liable. Of this capital £100,000 is understood to have been actually raised by calls and accumulations, and invested as an invariable and permanent fund. The original 300 shares of £1000, on each of which £220 has been paid, have, for convenience in the disposal of them, been since subdivided into quarterly parts.

The office of the Company is situate in *Union-street*. It is a handsome stone-fronted building, and was erected in 1808, at an expence of nearly £4000, including the engine-house, firemen's-houses, and stable. A proper establishment of engines, horses, and men is always kept in readiness to proceed to any part of the town or neighbourhood, in case of fire, which happily seldom commits any serious ravages in Birmingham.

#### GAS WORKS.

These extensive premises are situate in a street, which has received from them the name of *Gas-street*, lying at the back of the Old Wharf, between

Broad-street and the Worcester and Birmingham Canal. They belong to a Company, called the *Birmingham Gas-light Company*, incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1819, for the purpose of supplying the town with the brilliant light of gas, which has almost superseded the more feeble light of oil and candles for streets and shops, and nearly all public and many private purposes.

In 1825 another Act of Parliament was obtained, under which an *additional* Company, called the *Birmingham and Staffordshire Gas-light Company*, became established for more effectually lighting with gas the town of Birmingham and other places in the counties of Warwick and Stafford. The Works of this Company are situate at *West Bromwich*, from whence gas is conducted by pipes to Birmingham, a distance of more than six miles. The Company has an office in the Old Square.

#### THE CRESCENT,

Situate near to Easy Hill, noticed in the next article as the residence of Baskerville, was commenced about the year 1792, and if finished according to the original design, would comprise a beautiful range of stone-fronted houses, of uniform architectural character, elevated on a commanding terrace above the Old Canal. The wings only were completed, when the decay of trade occasioned by the French war put a stop to the progress of the work; and now the situation has lost much of its

former eligibility by the introduction of wharfs and manufactories in the immediate vicinity.

The houses in the curve were erected many years subsequently to those at the extremities, and without any regard to conformity of style and arrangement.

#### BASKERVILLE-PLACE.

In 1745 *John Baskerville* (afterwards the celebrated Typographer) took a building lease of several acres of land in a pleasant situation on the north-west side of the town, to which he gave the name of *Easy-hill*, and in the centre erected a handsome house for his own residence, planting and ornamenting the grounds, and erecting therein a mausoleum, within which, pursuant to his own desire, his remains were deposited on his death, (without issue), in 1775, at the age of 69. His aversion to Christianity is said to have induced him to object to the usual mode of burial in consecrated ground. After his death these premises became the property of the late John Ryland, Esq. who resided in them at the time of the riots in 1791, when the house was reduced by fire to a mere shell, and in that state remained for about 25 years, at the end of which time the whole of the ground was by the succeeding proprietor, Samuel Ryland, Esq. let for wharfs and trading erections, with which it is now covered. The external walls of the house are still distinguishable, having been incorporated

with additional buildings for the purpose of a manufactory.

On excavating the ground in 1821, the remains of Baskerville, inclosed in a coffin of lead, were discovered, and necessarily disinterred and removed.

This extraordinary man was born at Wolverley, in Worcestershire, in 1706. After being trained a stone-cutter, he became first a writing-master, and then a japanner in Birmingham. He continued his trade of a japanner after his removal to Easy-hill, where, in 1750, he turned his attention to the arts of letter-founding and printing, which he practised during the remainder of his life, and in which the many beautiful productions of his press will shew how greatly he excelled. Among these interesting records of his fame may be mentioned the quarto edition of *Virgil*, with which he opened his press in 1756; a folio edition of *The Bible*; quarto and octavo editions of the *Book of Common Prayer*, and of *Milton's Poetical Works*; a quarto edition of *Addison's Works*; and editions of *Ariosto*, and of several other Roman and English Classics. At his death, no purchaser could be found in this kingdom for his types, which were at length sold in 1779 to a Literary Society in Paris, for £3700, and used in printing an edition of the Works of Voltaire, extending to 70 octavo volumes.

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## BEARDSWORTH'S REPOSITORY AND CARRIAGE MART,

Situate in *Balsall-street*, near to Smithfield Market place, and readily distinguished by the large figure of a white horse placed over the gateway, is an extensive, commodious, and well conducted establishment for the disposal of horses and carriages, either by public or private sale. A weekly auction is held on Thursday.

The whole has been erected and formed by the enterprising and liberal proprietor, Mr. Beardsworth; and it is probable that no establishment of the kind exists of equal magnitude and completeness.

The interior comprises a covered, well-lighted, and airy space, or ride, of large dimensions, surrounded by galleries stored with carriages of various sorts, and stabling beneath for a great number of horses, with all requisite accommodations.

By the ready permission of the proprietor, these premises have been frequently used for public meetings of the inhabitants, no other building in Birmingham being so well adapted to the accommodation of the public on such occasions.

SOHO MANUFACTORY, &c.

At the northern extremity of the parish of Birmingham, but in the adjoining parish of Hands-

worth, and county of Stafford, is a hill called *Soho*, at the foot of which stands the far-famed Manufactory of that name, adjacent to the mansion and grounds, which occupy the summit and declivities.

In the year 1757, John Wyrley, of Hamstead, Esq. Lord of the Manor of Handsworth, granted a lease for 99 years of certain tracts of common land here, and certain inclosed lands, with liberty to make a cut for turning Hockley brook and forming a pool, in order to the erection of a water mill. A small house and feeble mill for rolling metal, were consequently erected. In 1762, the late Matthew Boulton, who ther. carried on a steel toy manufactory in Birmingham (the place of his nativity), purchased this lease, with all the premises and appurtenances, for the purposes of his trade, and soon afterwards, having enlarged and increased the buildings, and rebuilt the mill, transplanted the whole of his manufactory from Birmingham to Soho; but still further accommodation being requisite for the advancement of his great designs, Mr. Boulton therefore, in 1764, laid the foundation of the present noble manufactory, which was finished in the following year, at the expence of £9000. From that period he turned his attention to a greater variety of branches of manufacture; and in conjunction with Mr. Fothergill, then his partner, established a mercantile correspondence throughout Europe. Impelled by an ardent attachment to the

arts, and by the patriotic ambition of bringing his favourite Soho to the highest degree of perfection, the ingenious proprietor soon established a seminary of artists for drawing and modelling; and men of genius were sought for and liberally patronised, whose exertions produced a successful imitation of the or-molu, in a variety of metallic ornaments, consisting of vases, tripods, candelabras, &c. manufactured with superior skill and taste. From this elegant branch of the business the artists were led, by a natural and easy transition, to that of wrought silver; and other useful and ornamental arts gradually followed.

Mr. Boulton finding from experience that the water power at Soho was insufficient for his purposes, though aided by the power of horses, in 1767 put up a steam engine, on Savery's plan, with the intention of returning and raising his water about 24 feet high; but this proving unsatisfactory to him, he soon after formed an acquaintance with his subsequent partner and friend, *James Watt*, of Glasgow, who, in 1765, had invented several valuable improvements upon the steam engine, which, in fact, made it a new machine. For these improvements Mr. Watt had obtained a patent in January, 1769, and afterwards came to settle at Soho, where in that year he erected one of his improved engines, and after full proof of its utility, obtained, in 1775, a prolongation of the term of his patent for twenty-five years from that date. He

then entered into partnership with Mr. Boulton, and they established at Soho a very extensive manufactory of these engines, which are now adapted to almost every mechanical purpose where great power is requisite.

The application of this improved steam engine at Soho to raise and return the water, extended the powers of the water mill, which Mr. Boulton therefore a second time rebuilt, upon a much larger scale, and several engines were afterwards erected here for other purposes, whereby the manufactory was greatly extended, the source of mechanical power being thus unlimited.

In order to obtain the desired degree of perfection in the manufacture of their steam engines, Messrs. Boulton and Watt established a large and complete iron-foundry at Smethwick, a convenient distance westward from Soho, and having the advantage of communication with the Birmingham Canal.

The applicability of the steam engine to the purpose and various processes of coining, led to the erection here, in 1788, of a *coining mill*, which was afterwards much improved, and acquired great celebrity for efficiency and dispatch.

Previous to Mr. Boulton's engagement to supply Government with copper coin, in order to bring his apparatus to the greatest perfection, he exercised it in coining silver money for Sierra Leone and the African Company, and copper for the East India Company and Bermudas. Various beautiful medals

were likewise struck here from time to time, for the purpose of employing ingenious artists, and encouraging the revival of that branch of art, which in this kingdom had long been on the decline.

The penny and two-penny pieces of 1797, the halfpence and farthings of 1799, the pence, half-pence, and farthings of 1806 and 1807 (all of excellent pattern and workmanship), and we believe the whole of the copper coinage of George the Third, which forms the principal part of that now in circulation, issued from the Soho Mint; at which the five shilling bank tokens issued in 1804 were also struck, and a coinage for the Russian government.

In a national view Mr. Boulton's undertakings were highly valuable and important. By collecting round him artists of various descriptions, rival talents were called forth, and by successive competition have been multiplied to an extent highly beneficial to the public. A barren heath has been covered with plenty and population, and these works, which in their infancy were little known or attended to, now cover several acres, give employment to some hundreds of persons, and are said to be the first of their kind in Europe. Mr. Boulton ultimately purchased the fee-simple of Soho and much of the adjoining land.

The liberal spirit and taste of the worthy proprietor was further exercised not only in the mansion, wherein he resided, but in the adjoining gardens,

groves, and pleasure grounds, which, at the same time that they form an agreeable separation from the residence, render Soho, with its fine pool of water, a much-admired scene of picturesque beauty, where the sweets of solitude and retirement may be enjoyed, as if far distant from the busy hum of men.

Two fine engravings, by Eginton, one of the manufactory, and the other of the mansion, at Soho, are contained in the second volume of Shaw's History of Staffordshire, from which work much of the foregoing account is abridged.

The elder Messrs. Boulton and Watt are now both deceased,\* but the various manufactories are continued under several firms by the son of each, *Matthew Robinson Boulton* and *James Watt*.

Besides the iron-foundry, the making of steam engines, copying machines, and fire-irons, the rolling of metals, &c. the principal heads of manufacture at this distinguished place are buttons, steel goods, plated and silver wares, toys, medals, &c. of which a splendid assortment may be inspected in the shew-rooms; but it is understood that the *manufactory* is not, as heretofore, open to the gratification of the curious.

\* The late Mr. Boulton died in August, 1809, in his 81st year, and the late Mr. Watt in August, 1819, at the age of 83. They were both interred in the neighbouring Church of Handsworth, wherein monuments are placed to their memory. That of Mr. Watt is a fine piece of sculpture by Chantrey, being a full-length statue and likeness of the deceased, in a sitting position, elevated on a pedestal, and placed in an elegant gothic chapel erected for its reception.

MANUFACTORY AND SHEW-ROOMS OF MR. THOMAS-  
SON, CHURCH-STREET.

The Shew-rooms of this celebrated Establishment are very extensive, and contain, in a finished state, for exhibition and sale, a large and interesting assemblage of articles here manufactured, chiefly of the finer and more ornamental classes of metallic productions, in gold, silver, brass, bronze, &c. including a great variety of beautiful medals.

Persons of distinction are permitted to inspect the manufactory; and to observe the process of various operations in the metallic arts.

Among the many objects of attraction here presented to view is an excellent copy in metal (executed under the direction of Mr. Thomason) of the famous antique *Bacchanalian Vase*, of colossal dimensions, belonging to the Earl of Warwick and deposited in the Conservatory at Warwick castle.

## PANTECINETHEKA, NEW-STREET.

This sumptuous building was erected in 1823, from the designs of Mr. Stedman Whitwell, Architect, for exhibiting under one roof specimens of the various elegant manufactures of the town. The Greek inscription, ΠΑΝΤΕΧΝΗΘΕΚΑ (General Repository of Art), appearing on the front, was chosen to convey concisely an idea of the purpose to which the erection is applied; but the adoption

of the word gave rise to a critical controversy in some of the public prints as to the accuracy of its composition, and the propriety of its application.

*Mr. Charles Jones* is the proprietor of this establishment, in the elegant shew-rooms of which may be inspected and purchased an almost infinite variety of articles in gold, silver, steel, &c. comprising gold and silver plate, gems, bronzes, jewels, medals, plated wares, cutlery, guns and pistols, swords, cut glass and japan wares, and a long list of other things.

#### FURTHER NOTICE OF MANUFACTORIES, &c.

Having in a preceding article taken a general view of the manufactures, trade, and commerce of the town, and as it falls not within the design or limits of this work to give an account in detail of the various manufacturing establishments, suffice it, therefore, that the stranger's attention be further directed to the following extended list of general heads under which most of those establishments may be classed, viz. anvil-makers, awl-blade-makers, bellows-makers, brace and web-makers, brass-founders, bell-founders, braziers and tin-plate-workers, britannia metal-workers, brush-makers, button-makers, cabinet-makers, cutlers, candlestick-makers, clock dial-makers, clock and watch-makers, cock-founders, comb-makers, curry-comb-makers, coffin furniture-makers, edge-tool-makers, fender-makers, file-makers, frying-pan-makers, fire-

iron-makers, gilt toy-makers, gimlet, brace, and bit-makers, glass-manufacturers, glass-cutters, glass toy-makers, gun-makers, gun implement-makers, hinge-makers, iron-founders, ivory and bone-turners, japanners, jewellers, lamp and lantern-makers, locksmiths, malt-mill-makers, mathematical instrument-makers, military ornament-makers, nail-makers, opticians, platers, pocket-book and ladies' work-box-makers, rule-makers, saddlers'-ironmongers and coach furniture-makers, saw-makers, scale-beam and steelyard-makers, silversmiths, snuffer-makers, spoon-makers, steel toy-makers, sword-makers, tea-urn-makers, thimble-makers, tortoiseshell and ivory-workers, trunk-makers, umbrella and parasol-makers, whip-makers, wire-drawers and workers, wood-screw-makers, wood-turners, writing desk and cabinet-case-makers, vertical and other jack-makers, besides many others which an amplification of this list might include.

## JOINT STOCK ESTABLISHMENTS.

The following Joint Stock Establishments exist in the town, in addition to those before noticed under their respective heads. There are others, but we confine our attention to those only which come most under public notice.

*Brass Works*, in Broad-street, on the banks of the canal; established about 1781. The large and handsome warehouse and broad chimneys of these works are conspicuous objects from the road.

*Birmingham Mining and Copper Company*, formed in 1790. Warehouse, Temple-row West—Works in Cornwall and South Wales.

*Crown Copper Company*, of later date. Warehouse, Cannon-street—Works in South Wales.

*Old Union Mill* (Flour and Bread Company), Holte-street, adjoining the Canal ; established 1796.

*New Union Mill* (Flour and Bread Company), Shepcote-lane, near the Five-ways, and adjoining the Canal ; established 1813.

*Warstone and Deritend Breweries*, Warstone-lane, and Moseley-street, Deritend. These were originally separate concerns, established by individuals, the latter in 1782, the former in 1784. They were united a few years since by the present proprietary.

*Birmingham Brewery*, at the back of the Crescent, adjoining the Canal. A very complete establishment ; commenced in 1814.

*Union Rolling Mill*, Cambridge-street, near the Crescent ; a recent erection, distinguished by its tall circular chimney, the highest in Birmingham, and visible at a great distance from the town in several directions.

#### CHAMBER OF MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE.

At a public meeting held in July, 1813, the above Commercial Society (alluded to at p. 83) was established in the town by a body of subscribers, for

the purpose of collecting and comparing the opinions of its merchants and manufacturers, of acting as a medium of communication with ministers and the legislature on the subject of trade, and of co-operating with other parts of the united kingdom, on occasions affecting the general prosperity of the manufactures and commerce of the British empire. The utility of this Society has been manifested on many important occasions.

A Society also exists for the *Protection of Trade against fraudulent Bankrupts, Swindlers, &c.* and another for the *Prosecution of Felons.*

## BOTANICAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This Society was formed in the summer of 1829, the *Earl of Dartmouth* being appointed President. The laws and regulations necessary for its government have been prepared and adopted at a general meeting, and a committee is appointed to fix upon the site of a garden, to enter into the necessary contracts, to appoint servants, and to adopt every measure necessary to carry into effect the objects of the Society.

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The chief Inns in Birmingham are the Royal Hotel, Temple-row, near St. Philip's Church.

Coach Inns.	Hen and Chickens, New-street.
	Swan,
	Albion,
	Castle,
	George,
	Saracen's Head, Bull-street.
	Nelson (formerly the Dog), opposite Nelson's Statue, in the Market-place.
	Stork, Square.
	White Hart,
	George,

High-street.

Union, Union-street.

Woolpack, Moor-street.

Rose, Edgbaston-street.

Those best adapted to the accommodation of *families* are the Royal Hotel, the Hen and Chickens, the Stork, the Swan, and the Albion.

The *Royal Hotel* (to which is attached the large *Assembly* and *Concert Room*) was erected in 1772, by Tontine subscription, and denominated the *Hotel*. The distinctive appellation *Royal* was prefixed in consequence of one of the Royal family having some years' since, on his visit to Birmingham, taken up his abode at this house. It has frequently been honoured with the presence of persons of high distinction.

*Posting* is provided at the Royal Hotel, the Hen and Chickens, the Swan, the Albion, the Castle, and Nelson.

## BANKS.

Taylors and Lloyds, Dale-end, draw on Hanburys and Co. London.

Attwoods, Spooner, and Co. New-street, draw on Spooner and Co. London.

Galtons and James, Steelhouse-lane, draw on Barclay and Co. London.

Moilliet, Smith, and Pearson, Cherry-street, draw on Sir J. W. Lubbock and Co. London.

Rottons, Smith, and Scholefield, Bull-street, draw on Hanburys and Co. London.

Branch Bank of England, Union-street, George Nicholls, Esq. Agent.

Joint Stock Bank, New-street, Mr. Joseph Gibbins, Agent; draws on Sir James Esdaile and Co. London.

Lovell, Goode, and Stubbs, Church-street, draw on Sir R. C. Glyn and Co. London.

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TABLE OF HACKNEY COACH FARES AND STANDS,  
*As fixed by the Town Commissioners on the 10th  
of November, 1828.*

Distance.	Drawn by one horse.	Two horses.			
		s.	d.	s.	d.
Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile				1	0
.....	1 mile	1	0	1	6
.....	1 mile and a half	1	6	2	0
.....	2 miles	2	0	2	6

Distance.	Drawn by one horse.		Two horses.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Not exceeding 2 miles and a half	2	6		
..... 3 miles	3	0	3	6
..... 3 miles and a half	3	6		
..... 4 miles	4	0	5	0

Back fares one half of the above.

#### For Time.

Waiting between nine in the morning and twelve at night,				
Above 15 minutes and not exceeding 20	0	6		
Above 20 minutes and not exceeding 40	1	0		

And Sixpence additional for every period of time not exceeding 20 minutes from the expiration of the first 40 minutes.

#### Night Fares.

From twelve till six between the 1st of April and the 1st of October, and from twelve till seven between the 1st of October and the 1st of April, double the above.

#### Stands.

New-street, Paradise-street, Ann-street, Temple-row West, Colmore-row, Bristol-street, bottom of Great Charles-street, and Easy-row.

## NEWSPAPERS.

*Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, commenced 1741, printed and published weekly on Monday morning by Thomas Knott, jun. at 95, High-street.

*Birmingham Journal*, commenced 1825, printed and published weekly on Saturday morning by William Hodgetts, 16, Spiceal-street.

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## ENVIRONS OF BIRMINGHAM.

## ASTON.

The extensive parish of *Aston*, which bounds the parish of Birmingham on the east, comprises (besides the village and lordship of Aston) the hamlets of *Deritend* and *Bordesley*, and of *Duddeston* and *Nechells*, all in immediate connection with the town of Birmingham, and into which a considerable portion of the town extends; also the villages or hamlets of *Saltley*, *Ward End*, *Castle Bromwich*, *Water Orton*, *Erdington*, and *Witton*, and some others of less note.

Of the *Chapels* of *Deritend* and *Bordesley* descriptions have already been given.

*Bordesley Hall*, an elegant mansion erected by the first John Taylor, Esq. was burnt in the riots of

1791. The shell remained for many years, but is now taken down, the surrounding grounds having been appropriated to building purposes.

The ancient Manor-house of *Duddeston*, which, from the 38th of Edward III. until the erection of Aston Hall in the reign of James the First, was the principal seat of the *Holte* family, of whose possessions it formed a part, is now converted into a *Tavern*, with beautiful gardens attached, as a public resort of pleasure, under the denomination of *Vauxhall*; near to which is the elegant residence of *Samuel Galton, Esq.*

At *Saltley*, about a mile eastward from Duddeston, was formerly a castle or mansion, the seat of its lords, the memory whereof is preserved in the present residence called *Saltley Hall*.

At *Bennet's Hill*, Saltley, by the side of the turnpike road, stands the house of the late venerable Historian of Birmingham, *William Hutton, Esq.* now occupied by Miss Hutton, his daughter. This is one of the houses which suffered in the riots of 1791, when the interior was destroyed by fire.

At *Ward End*, anciently *Little Bromwich*, about three miles from Birmingham, was another castle or mansion, now demolished, the moats, mounds, and trenches of which, of considerable extent, still remain, contiguous to a comparatively modern erection substituted for the ancient edifice. This

hamlet was the property of *John Bond*, who, in the 6th of Henry VIII. made a small park here, and stored it with deer; he also, with consent of the bishop of the diocese, as also of the prior and convent of Tikford, and the vicar of Aston, built a small *Chapel* for the accommodation of the inhabitants of the hamlet, by reason of its distance from the parish church, and the occasional obstruction of floods. This chapel has long been desecrated. The skeleton of it, in the form of a cross, now remains, and is used as a stable or outhouse appurtenant to the adjoining farm.

*Castle Bromwich*, anciently possessed by *Lord Ferrers of Chartley*, afterwards came to the family of *Devereux*, one of whom, about the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, or beginning of that of James the First, erected the present mansion of brick, called *Castle Bromwich Hall*, now the residence and part of the possessions of the *Earl of Bradford*. This house is delightfully situated by the side of the turnpike road leading from Birmingham towards Coleshill, about five miles from the former place. At the back is a *Chapel of Ease* to the mother church of Aston. It is built of brick, with a tower, and appears to be a more recent erection than the Hall.

About two miles further east is the village and chapel of *Water Orton*.

Near to Castle Bromwich, on the banks of the River *Tame*, is the site of *Park Hall*, once the

chief seat, and for many years part of the vast estates of the ancient and unfortunate family of *Arden*; and not far distant once stood *Berwood Hall*, also belonging to the same family.

Between this place and Erdington is *Pipe Hall*, an ancient mansion, the seat of the Rev. *Egerton Arden Bagot*.

The increasing village of *Erdington* is situate about four miles from Birmingham, on the turnpike road between that place and the town of Sutton Coldfield. A neat *Chapel* of stone, in the Gothic style of architecture, was erected here a few years since, by his Majesty's Commissioners, out of the Parliamentary Grant for building additional Churches.

The *Manor* of Erdington was formerly possessed by a family of that name, who erected here a moated mansion, called *Erdington Hall*, at which they resided during many centuries. It afterwards passed into the *Holte* family. The present mansion, not of very ancient character in the exterior, is now used as a farm house. At a short distance from it is a mill called *Bromford Forge*.

Adjoining to Erdington is the manor of *Witton*, now or lately possessed by the family of *Birch*. *Witton Hall* is the residence of Isaac Spooner, Esq. an acting magistrate in Birmingham.

Between Witton and Birmingham is the lordship and picturesque village of *Aston*, for more than four centuries possessed by the family of *Holte*, till

the year 1782, when, on the death of Sir Charles Holte (the last male descendant of the family) they came, by will, to the late Heneage Legge, Esq. and remained entire till the year 1818, when the whole of the Aston estate was publicly offered for sale in lots, and is now possessed by various purchasers. *Sir Thomas Holte, Bart.* formed the park here (now dismantled), and erected, for the residence of himself and his successors, that beautiful and stately fabric, *Aston Hall*, which was begun in April, 1618 (16th of James I.), and finished in April, 1636 (11th of Charles I.) In the time of the Rebellion against the latter monarch, Sir Thomas favoured the cause of royalty, and was visited by the King at this house, where his Majesty staid two nights, about six days before the Battle of Edge-hill. The rebels inflicted their vengeance on Sir Thomas by firing at and plundering his house, and forcing contributions from him to a great amount. The effects of several cannon-shot which entered the house are still visible in the interior, particularly in the shattered balustrades of the great staircase. The hall is now the residence of *James Watt, Esq.* Sheriff (1829) of the County of Warwick. It is seen from the Lichfield turnpike road, at the extremity of a noble avenue of large elm and other trees, nearly half a mile in length. The original Manor-house, of which nothing now remains, was situate nearer to the river than the present one.

The fine *Church* of Aston, dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul, is ornamented with a tall spire, and contains many ancient monuments of the *Holtes*, the *Ardens*, *Devereux*, and others; and two windows of painted glass, by Eginton, in one of which, being monumental, is represented the resurrection of the lady to whose memory it was erected; the figures nearly the size of life.

In the village, and near to the vicarage house, is a range of *Alms-houses* for five men and five women, built in 1655 and 1656, pursuant to the directions of the above-named Sir Thomas Holte, who, dying in 1654, at the age of 83, by his will provided for their erection, and appointed an annual rent charge of £84, out of his manor of Erdington, for their support.

#### HANDSWORTH.

Adjoining to the parishes of Aston and Birmingham on the north, is that of Handsworth, within the verge of the county of Stafford.

The manor, after being long possessed by the family of *Wyrley*, passed, with considerable estates here and in the neighbourhood, to that of *Birch*, from which we believe it has been purchased by the Earl of Dartmouth.

On the north-west side of this parish, and adjoining to that of Sutton Coldfield, is the ancient manor of *Perry*, which has been possessed by the

family of *Gough* from the year 1669. The old moated mansion, situated in a small and beautiful park, is now undergoing extensive renovation and improvement by the present liberal proprietor, John *Gough*, Esq. under the superintendance of Mr. *Wyatt*.

*Hamstead*, situate on the opposite border of the parish, was the seat of the *Wyrleys* for many generations. The old house, now entirely destroyed, stood about a quarter of a mile west of the present mansion, which is delightfully situated on a fine eminence, commanding a rich prospect over the adjacent country. It was some years since the residence of the proprietor, *George Birch*, Esq. but has been sold to the Earl of Dartmouth, and is at present occupied by *J. L. Moilliet*, Esq. a merchant and banker of Birmingham.

The celebrated Manufactory and Mansion of *Soho* have been noticed at some length in a preceding article, p. 221.

At *Prospect-hill*, nearly opposite to *Soho*, resided the late Mr. *Francis Eginton*, the celebrated glass-stainer.

*Heathfield*, in this parish, was the residence of the late *James Watt*, Esq. and is now occupied by his widow.

The *Church*, an ancient Gothic structure, dedicated to St. Mary, has been recently enlarged, and contains several ancient monuments of the *Wyrleys* and others. Among the modern monuments are

those to the memory of the late Messrs. *Boulton* and *Watt*, the latter being a *statue* of the deceased from the chisel of that eminent sculptor, *Chantrey*.

From the contiguity of Handsworth to Birmingham it has become very populous, and contains many respectable residences. The great road to the collieries and the north passes through this parish.

Adjoining to the plantations of Soho, just within the parish of Birmingham, is a residence called Hockley Abbey, but of no antiquity.

#### HARBOURN.

This parish, which bounds that of Birmingham on the north-west, is also in the county of Stafford, and includes the manor and chapelry of *Smethwick*. The manors of *Harbourn* and *Smethwick* formerly belonged to the Barony of *Dudley*, and after a long continuance in that family, passed to the family of *Cornwallis* in the 17th century. They afterwards passed to *Philip Foley*, Esq. who sold them to *George Birch*, Esq. and Mr. *Henry Hinckley*, about 1710; the former taking *Harbourn*, and the latter *Smethwick*.

*Harbourn* was afterwards the property and residence of *Judge Birch*, whose son and heir, *George Birch*, of Hamstead, Esq. sold this manor to the late Mr. *Thomas Green*, of Birmingham, who built a large house here for his principal residence, now,

with the manor, possessed by the family of his grandson, the late *Thomas Green Simcox, Esq.* The old mansion house of the Birches still remains, but is now in a decayed state, and tenanted by a farmer. There is also a house called *Welsh House*, one called the *Ravenhurst*, and another called *Tennal Hall*. Among the principal residents of Harbourn are *George Simcox, Esq.* and *Theodore Price, Esq.* two of the oldest tradesmen and magistrates connected with the town of Birmingham.

The *Church*, an old tower structure, dedicated to St. Peter, has been within a few years, by the exertions of the Vicar, the Rev. J. T. Law, Chancellor of the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, partly rebuilt and enlarged, with accommodation of free seats for the poor.

In the village is a *Charity School*, founded about a century ago by the then lords of the above manors and others, for the instruction of the poor children of the parish in reading and writing.

The manor of *Smethwick* having been disposed of by Mr. Hinckley, was, at the commencement of the present century, the joint property of Mr. *John Reynolds*, of *Shireland Hall*, and Mr. *John Baddeley*, of *Albrighton, Salop*, the celebrated clock-maker and optician.

*Shireland Hall* was rebuilt by Mr. Reynolds, now deceased, whose son, *John Reynolds, Esq.* resides at the *Coppice*, not far distant.

Another house, called the *Beaks*, was the residence of the Hinckleys, and by them sold to Mr. Hanson.

Near to *Warley Hall*, the property of Samuel Galton, Esq. who has there made great improvements, is a small tract of woodland called the *Lightwoods*, with a residence of the same name.

The canal from Birmingham, and the turnpike roads to Dudley and Hales Owen, pass through this hamlet, in which is situate the great iron-factory belonging to Soho, and other works; also a residence called *Smethwick Grove*, and an obscure house called *Smethwick Hall*.

*Smethwick Chapel*, a small neat brick building, with a tower, was founded about a century ago by *Mrs. Dorothy Parkes*, of Birmingham, who settled and devised lands here for the erection and support thereof, and for the support of a chaplain to officiate therein. The chapel stands within a small cemetery, and near to it is a house for the residence of the minister.

The same pious and benevolent lady also founded and endowed a small Charity School here, which is conducted by a female.

#### EDGBASTON.

Adjoining to Birmingham on the west and southwest is the parish of *Edgbaston*, which adjoins also to Harbourn and King's Norton. In the reign of Henry the Second, Edgbaston was possessed by *Henry* surnamed *de Edgbaston*, and in the reign of Henry the Fourth was carried by the heiress of that family into the family of *Middlemore*, in which it continued till the year 1717, when Sir Richard

Gough, Knight, an ancestor of *Lord Calthorpe*, the present possessor, purchased the Lordship of Edgbaston, and nearly the whole of the parish, from the Lord Viscount *Faulconbridge* and Lady *Briget* his wife, who was one of the grand daughters and co-heiresses of *Robert Middlemore*, Esq. and became solely entitled to Edgbaston by a deed of partition with her sister Mary, who was afterwards married to *Sir John Shelley, Bart.*

The *Manor-house* of Edgbaston was garrisoned by a party of the Parliament army in the civil wars of Charles the First, and afterwards, when the general alarm was given in this kingdom preceding the revolution, the populace of Birmingham, fearing it might be made a place of refuge for Papists, set fire to it and burnt it to the ground, in which condition it lay till after the above purchase by Sir R. Gough, when the hall was rebuilt as it now appears. It stands in a small but beautifully situated park, which is well wooded, and contains a large sheet of water. *Edgbaston Hall* ceased to be the family residence of the proprietors in the latter quarter of the last century. *Dr. Withering* resided here in 1791, when the Hall was plundered by the rioters. For more than twenty years past it has been occupied by that well-known and highly respected physician, *Dr. Edward Johnstone*.

Near to Edgbaston Hall and adjoining to the park on the east, is a house called the *Priory*, now the residence of George Attwood, Esq.

Formerly there were two other parks in Edgbaston, the names whereof are still preserved in the districts which they once inclosed, viz. *Mitchley Park*, on the verge of the parish next to Harbourn, and *Rotton Park*, on the opposite extremity, near to Birmingham Heath, and partly in the parish of Birmingham. There was a lodge to each. In the former were the remains, now nearly obliterated, of an extensive fortification, which Mr. Hutton supposed to have been a *Danish Camp*, thinking it on too large a scale for the Romans, though situate very near to the line of the *Ikeneild-street*, which passed through the parish in a direction from north-east to south-west. A building at Mitchley Park, now a farm-house, still retains the name of the *Mass-house*, having formerly been used as a place of worship for persons of the Roman Catholic persuasion, until St. Peter's Chapel, in Birmingham, was erected for their accommodation.

A conspicuous object at Edgbaston is the tall brick tower, seven stories high, called the *Monument*, erected about the year 1758, by the late John Parrott, Esq. as an *Observatory*, and not unfrequently designated *Parrott's Folly*. Attached to it is a house, now the residence of another eminent physician, *Dr. John Johnstone*.

In this parish is the *Asylum of the Deaf and Dumb Institution*, described in a previous article, p. 163; also the *School* of Messrs. Hill, called *Hazelwood School*, an establishment of consider-

able celebrity, situate on the Hagley road. A very complete *Bowling Green* has been formed near the Harbourn road, with a house and ornamental grounds attached for the accommodation of the subscribers.

Since Lord Calthorpe about twenty years ago began to grant out his estate here on building leases, new lines of road have been laid open, and a great number of elegant villa residences erected, occupying about one-half of the parish on the side nearest to Birmingham.

By the dryness of the soil, the salubrity of the air, the pleasantness of the situation, its easy distance south-west of Birmingham, and the exclusion of manufactories and small houses, Edgbaston is rendered a favourite place of domestic retreat.

Of the new roads opened over Lord Calthorpe's estate the two principal ones are *Calthorpe-street*, leading from the Five-ways turnpike to Edgbaston Church; and *Wellington-road*, leading out of the Bromsgrove-road to the same point.

The *Worcester and Birmingham Canal* passes through the parish, as do the turnpike roads to Bromsgrove and Hagley, and the road to Harbourn. The most ancient roads through the parish are now of subordinate character, and some parts of them considerably altered.

*Edgbaston Church*, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, after being demolished by the Parliament forces in the civil wars, when they garrisoned Edg-

baston House, was soon after the restoration rebuilt, and in 1717 was repaired and beautified, chiefly at the expence of Sir Richard Gough. The tower and a portion of the east end are nearly all that now remain of the old edifice, the body having been taken down and rebuilt in the year 1810. Among the monumental records within the church are several of the *Gough* family, and one to the memory of the late *Dr. Withering*. The old monuments of the Middlemores are all destroyed. The Church is of stone, situate within an inclosed cemetery, on an elevated spot near to the park entrance, from whence is a fine prospect over the valley towards Birmingham and Moseley.

The Parsonage House is distant about half a mile from the church.

#### KING'S NORTON AND MOSELEY.

*King's Norton*, generally reputed to be a parish of itself, is in truth but a *hamlet* or *chapelry* belonging to *Bromsgrove*, an ancient demesne of the *Crown*; and *Moseley* is the same. They are both in the county of *Worcester*. The former hamlet touches upon the southern extremity of Birmingham, at or near the River *Rea*, and adjoins to the parish of *Aston at Bordesley*.

The *village* of *King's Norton*, situate about five miles south of Birmingham, formerly ranked as a town, in which the business of woolstapling ap-

pears to have once flourished. A market on Saturday, and two fairs in a year, were granted by James the First; but the market is quite disused. The lofty spire of its ancient *Chapel*, dedicated to St. Nicholas (generally known as King's Norton Church) is a principal object on proceeding from Birmingham along the Bromsgrove turnpike road. The edifice contains several monuments of the families of Greves, Middlemore, Greswold, Littelton, and others. In the Church-yard is a *Free School*, founded by King Edward the Sixth, wherein are the remains of a *Parochial Library* established by the *Rev. Thomas Hall*, Minister and Schoolmaster here, an author of some note, who was ejected from his preferments for non-conformity, and died in 1665.

*Moseley*, through which runs the turnpike road from Birmingham to *Alcester*, is delightfully situated for the most part on rising ground, commanding fine prospects over Birmingham and Edgbaston. The crest of the hill extending from the top of Dertend towards Moseley village, is called *Highgate*, a dry and pleasant situation, in high esteem for its salubrity.

The *Chapel of Moseley*, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, was a few years since rebuilt of brick and enlarged. The old stone tower remains, with the battlements repaired.

*Moseley Hall*, the seat of Mrs. Taylor, is a beautiful mansion of stone, situate in finely wooded

grounds, overlooking the country towards Birmingham. It was rebuilt on the site of a former mansion here, which was burnt in the riots of 1791.

A short distance from Moseley Hall is *Cannon Hill*, now the residence of William Palmer, Esq.; and many other seats of the gentry are studded about the hamlet and village.

The Middlemores, a younger branch of the family which formerly possessed Edgbaston, had a house at King's Norton, situate between that village and Bromsgrove, called *Hawksley House*, which, having been garrisoned and fortified by the rebels, was besieged and taken by Prince Rupert for the King, in May, 1645; and after being pillaged was set on fire.

The *Worcester and Birmingham Canal* passes through King's Norton, where it is joined by the *Stratford Canal*. The Roman *Ikeneild-street* also passes through from Edgbaston to Beoley.

The *Manor of Bromsgrove* is now possessed by the *Earl of Plymouth*, and that of *King's Norton* by *James Taylor, Esq.*

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## ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

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PAGE 5.—IT is understood that Mr. Hamper's list of changes in the name of Birmingham amounts to *one hundred and forty*.

Pages 7, 8, and 11.—Mr. Hamper has subsequently discovered that the name *Bremenium*, in Iter. 10 of Richard of Cirencester, was actually *foisted* by Dr. Stukeley into his edition of that writer.

Page 17.—In Lodge's Portraits of Illustrious Personages of Great Britain is a Portrait, engraved by Dean (with a memoir), of *John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland*, ob. 1553, from the original of Holbein, in the possession of Sir John Shelley Sidney, Bart.

Page 25.—The same work also contains a Portrait (with a memoir) of *Prince Rupert* (Nephew of Charles the First), ob. 1682, engraved from the original by Van dyke, in the possession of the Earl of Craven, at Combe Abbey.

Page 76.—Line 4 from top, *dele* “last.”

Page 86.—The Officers there named were succeeded in October, 1829, by

William Chance, High Bailiff;  
Edward Corn, Low Bailiff;  
William Harley,      } Constables;  
Charles Fairfax,      }  
Walter Brinton, Headborough.

Page 89.—The *Town Improvement Act* here referred to was passed in the Session of 1828. It is more particularly mentioned in p. 97.

Page 112.—The *Lecturer of St. Philip's Church* is the Rev. *Charles Craven*, who succeeded the Rev. Walter Farquhar Hook.

Page 115.—The Rev. G. Hodson, Minister of *Christ Church*, has been recently appointed Archdeacon of Stafford.

Page 125.—The Rev. John Greensall has succeeded the Rev. W. M. Lawson, as Assistant Minister at *St. Paul's Chapel*.

Page 130.—The Rev. Josiah Allport, Perpetual Curate of Atherstone, has been appointed Minister of *St. James's Chapel*, Ashsted, on the resignation of the Rev. Edward Burn.

This Chapel has lately undergone extensive repairs and some alteration, the whole expences of which must be defrayed by private contribution, the chapel having no claim on parochial assistance.

Page 147.—The gross receipts of the *Musical Festival* held in October, 1829, amounted, with donations, to upwards of £10,000, which it is expected will leave a profit for the Hospital of about £4,000.

Page 149.—Mr. Shipton having resigned his office as one of the Surgeons of the *Dispensary*, was succeeded in Sept. 1829, by Mr. Frederick Ryland.

Page 151.—The *Establishment for the Relief of Bodily Deformity* is continued at the late residence of Mr. Shipton, in New-street, but that gentleman having recently left the town, reference is now made to Mr. Freer, Surgeon, Old Square.

Page 157.—A very full Report of the Commissioners of Charities respecting the *Free School* and other Chari-

ties in Birmingham, has been recently published. It is comprised in their Twentieth General Report, dated the 12th of July, 1828, and printed pursuant to an order of the House of Commons dated the 18th of February, 1829.

Page 170.—The will of *Geo. Fenthams* is dated April 24, 1690, to which he added a codicil, dated December 2, 1697. The year 1712 is believed to have been the year of his death.

Page 174.—A suitable building in Broad-street has been engaged by the Committee for a *Magdalen Asylum*, and was opened for the reception of inmates in October, 1829.

Pages 190, 191, and 192.—*Society of Arts, and Birmingham Institution.*—An exhibition of Modern Paintings, &c. took place at each of these establishments in the autumn of 1829. That of the former society was eminently attractive and successful.

An amicable adjustment of the differences between these Establishments having been effected, an union of the two Societies is resolved upon, by which the latter will merge in the former, from which it originally sprang.

Page 194.—*School of Medicine and Surgery.*—A Theatre for the purposes of this Institution has been erected in Snow-hill, at the corner of Brittle-street, and was opened on the 18th of October, 1829, with an introductory Lecture by Mr. W. S. Cox.

Page 197.—The works for the enlargement and improvement of the *Public Office* have been commenced.

A *Medical Benevolent Society* was established in Birmingham a few years ago, the fund of which, as declared at the annual meeting in August, 1829, amounted to £1635 10s. 1d. including subscriptions then due.

In Aris's Birmingham Gazette of Sept. 1, 1828, was published a curious and interesting paper, by Mr. James Luckcock, giving, in a graduated scale, an Estimate of the supposed *Wealth of the Inhabitants of Birmingham*, with some elucidatory remarks. The aggregate amount is stated at £10,000,000.

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THE END.

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THOMAS KNOTT, JUN. PRINTER.

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1 ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH.

2 ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH.

Birmingham Published by Bailey, Kacu & Bailey July 1<sup>st</sup> 1828.

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